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Local pg 3

Shooting shocks neighbours

Canada pg 6

Mulroney takes stand

Sunny Side

Follow Metro's SunnySide initiative as we help you find the good news around Toronto and Canada. This is also a Call to Action for you to send us your suggestions at torontoletters@metronews.ca, metronews.ca or on Twitter @metrotoronto.

- On metronews.ca
- Share your SunnySide thoughts on Twitter using #sunnyside
- See what other Metro readers are doing and saying about SunnySide
- Enter for a chance to win a Sony Blu-ray player
- Today
- Paul Sullivan's The West View, page 8
- Word on the Street, page 8

Doc aces A.J.

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto Blue Jays pitcher Roy (Doc) Halladay, left, flashes a rare smile with catcher Rod Barajas last night after defeating the New York Yankees 5-1 at the Rogers Centre. Halladay threw a complete game to improve to 7-1 on the season, beating former Jay A.J. Burnett. Story, page 16.

Footing the bill

Taxpayers may be on hook for GM package: McGuinty

An aid package for General Motors will likely involve bigger-than-expected sacrifices from taxpayers, unions and the company if the recent concessions required to bail out Chrysler are any indication, Premier Dalton McGuinty said yesterday.

Bob Runciman

The federal and provincial governments had to provide more funds than anticipated in a $3.8-billion deal in April to help Chrysler survive — an amount that was almost as high as the $4 billion initially promised to cover both automakers.

GM has until Friday to work out a deal with the Canadian Auto Workers.

Ontario Opposition Leader Bob Runciman said McGuinty's comments should concern taxpayers, since there seems to be no bottom to how much the government is willing to pay. "There's no question that what he's talking about is probably more job losses and certainly more taxpayer money going into what, at the moment, appears to be a bottomless pit," Runciman said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Theory claims flu may have evolved in laboratory

Flu Outbreak

The World Health Organization and leading influenza research groups are investigating unpublished claims that the influenza A (H1N1) virus, also known as swine flu, may have evolved in a laboratory, not in nature.

The WHO was informed of the pending publication over the weekend by the author, a retired Australian plant virologist named Adrian Gibbs.

Gibbs said the genes of the novel H1N1 look like they evolved at a faster rate than would have been expected if the virus had just emerged from pigs.

While that could mean the virus spent some time evolving in another, intermediary host — Gibbs listed birds or marine mammals as possibilities — the unusual evolutionary speed could also have been the product of the virus was being grown in eggs in a laboratory, he said.

That raises the spectre of human error resulting in the accidental release of the virus, Gibbs suggested.

Ontario confirmed three new cases of swine flu yesterday, bringing the total number of cases in the province to 113.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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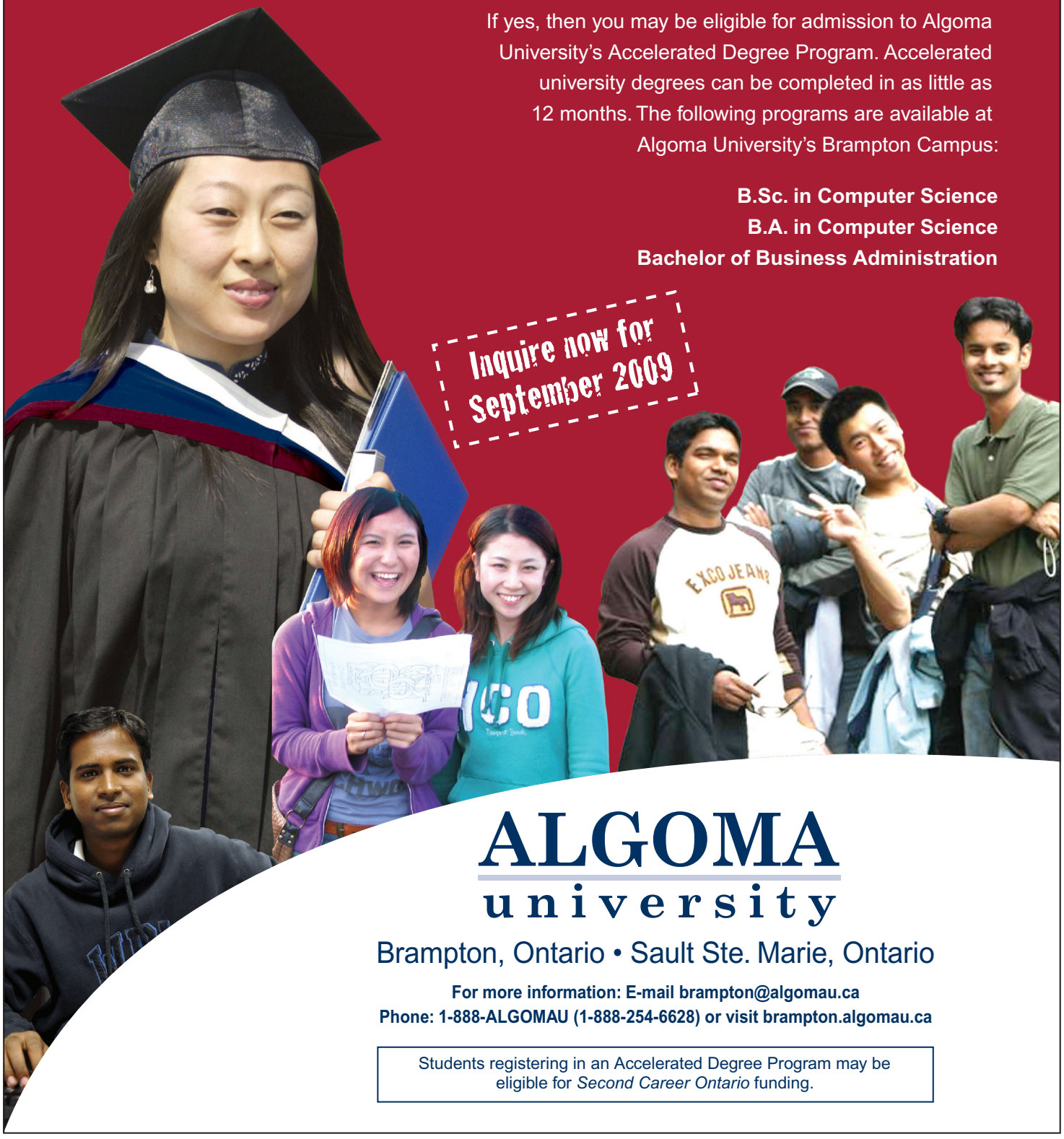

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School bus collision sends one to hospital

A young woman suffered serious abdominal injuries after she was struck by a school bus in Scarborough at Midland Avenue and Silver Star Boulevard, just north of Finch, around 3:45 p.m. She was taken to Sunnybrook hospital and is expected to recover. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

Local

Baby Kaylee may be going home soon

A rep for the family of three-month-old Kaylee Vitelli, who suffers from a rare brain condition, says the infant girl will be discharged from the Hospital for Sick Children Thursday. Kaylee's parents made headlines one month ago when they went public with their desire to have their dying daughter's heart transplanted into another ill baby. The parents, Jason Wallace and Crystal Vitelli, have publicly clashed with hospital staff and requested earlier this month Kaylee be removed from the world-renowned facility. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Tomorrow's Metro

Style

Jeanne Beker reveals her passion for communication and of course, fashion

metronews.ca

WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video A defiant Brian Mulroney hurls barbs at Karlheinz Schreiber and Stephen Harper at **metronews.ca/canada**

Blogs Hollywood Rants urges you to steer clear of Angels and Demons this weekend in favour of a possible Oscar favourite

Lotteries

Ontario Pick 3: 9 5 3; **Ontario Pick 4** : 5 9 9 7
Encore: 6396522
Daily Keno: 1, 6, 10, 13, 15, 16, 19, 29, 32, 36 37, 40, 43, 48, 49, 50, 60, 64, 67, 69
These results are not official.

ShareYourViews

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Please recycle

'I never watched a kid die before'

Residents of a west-end neighbourhood are trying to get over the shock of watching a baby-faced youth in a high school jacket die before their eyes after he was gunned down Monday evening in a hydro field.

Adrian Johnston, 14, was shot in the chest, stomach and shoulder about 5 p.m. in a field behind homes on Eileen Avenue, near Scarlett Road and St. Clair Avenue West.

"We were all around him and that poor kid looked at me," said Richard Kolovski, who ran to Adrian's side. "He's just a baby, without any hair on his chin. I never watched a kid die before."

> **"He's just a baby, without any hair on his chin."**
> Richard Kolovski

He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Residents, whose homes back onto the field along the south boundary of Lambton Golf and Country Club, heard three shots and saw a tall man in dark clothing and green ball cap run east through the field, toward Scarlett Road.

Police were checking surveillance footage that may have captured a suspect at a highrise complex on nearby Woolner Avenue where the hydro field crosses

It was the fourth fatal shooting in Toronto in the last three weeks, in what residents are calling a burgeoning drug war.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

New Flavour **Ladies scream for ice cream**

DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Members of the Canadian music group Barenaked Ladies unveil the new Ben & Jerry's ice cream flavour "If I Had 1,000,000 Flavours" during a press conference in Toronto yesterday. The band is, from left, Tyler Stewart, Kevin Hearn, Ed Robertson and Jim Creeggan.

Dhalla testifies at parliamentary committee

A ruthless slave driver or victim of a smear campaign?

A parliamentary committee heard radically different characterizations yesterday of Liberal MP Ruby Dhalla amid allegations she mistreated two caregivers hired to look after her mother and flaunted labour laws.

The sobbing women cast Dhalla as a hard-hearted taskmaster who forced them to turn over their passports and made them work long hours at menial chores.

But Dhalla promptly fired back, depicting herself as the victim of a smear campaign and insinuating the women may have been coached by Conservatives in exchange for guarantees of permanent residency.

The women both said it was Dhalla — not her brother, as she has claimed — who interviewed them, hired them and supervised much of their work beginning in February 2008.

The emotional testimony flew in the face of Dhalla's statements that she had nothing to do with the women's employment and was rarely at the Mississauga house when they worked.

Armed with a stack of documents, the Liberal MP vehemently denied the more sensational charges and cited several discrepancies in the women's testimony. THE CANADIAN PRESS

No more messy doctor scripts

DRUGS Barely legible handwritten prescriptions could become a pharmacists' headache of the past in Ontario as the provincial government yesterday introduced its first phase of a paperless prescription process.

The system, called ePrescribing, lets doctors forgo handwritten prescriptions, instead sending instructions to pharmacists electronically through a private computer network.

Doctors say patient safety will be enhanced because the prescriptions will be legible and clear.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

ACCIDENT A dump truck hit three young children crossing the street late yesterday morning at an east Toronto intersection. The children, ages one, five and six, were crossing at a green light just before noon when they were hit, Toronto police traffic officers said. The oldest child suffered what appeared to be a broken collarbone, while the other two escaped with only cuts and bruises. The woman suffered minor injuries. The investigation continues. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Forensics experts to examine remains

Peel police have brought in outside forensic experts to investigate human remains found in a Brampton field, near Countryside Dr. and Hwy. 410. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

10,000 Tamils set to protest again

More than 10,000 pro-Tamil demonstrators are expected to converge on Queen's Park at noon today and those who engage in any unlawful activity should be prepared to "face the consequences," says Toronto Police Chief William Blair.

"I want to do everything I can to encourage them to be peaceful … to be respectful of the rights of their fellow citizens in the city of Toronto … but we can't tolerate unlawful, dangerous activity," Blair said. "Our response will be entirely determined by their actions."

Protesters insist today's gathering will be peaceful. They say the assembly is intended to solicit an "active response" from the federal government to what the United Nations has called a bloodbath in Sri Lanka's northern war zone.

The planned protest comes as a third day of intense shelling continued in Sri Lanka's war zone yesterday, killing a reported 49 people waiting for treatment at the only medical facility left in the tiny coastal strip still under rebel control.

> **"It's hard to predict what will happen if the bloodbath in Sri Lanka continues."**
> Senthan Nada

But in Toronto, a spokesperson for the Coalition to Stop the War in Sri Lanka would not rule out another drastic traffic-stopping demonstration similar to Sunday's mass protest that shut down the Gardiner Expressway for seven hours.

"It's hard to predict what will happen if the bloodbath in Sri Lanka continues," said Senthan Nada.

Premier Dalton McGuinty said the protesters were welcome to use the front lawn of Queen's Park for their demonstrations.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MORE COVERAGE, PG 7

Miss Canada **Lovely ladies**

SAUL PORTO/TOP NEWS

Miss Universe Canada contestants attended a dinner and autograph session yesterday at Richtree Market Restaurants in Brookfield Place. Fans entered a contest to win a pair of VIP tickets to the Miss Universe Canada pageant Saturday at 7:30 p.m. at the John Bassett Theatre.

Buy American backlash brewing

A tiny Ontario town — population 58,000 — is vying to be the mouse that roared in the battle against big bad U.S. protectionism.

Upset one of the community's biggest manufacturers is being shut out of municipal infrastructure projects south of the border under Buy American legislation, the town of Halton Hills is taking matters into its own hands.

The town council unanimously passed a resolution that would have the Toronto-area municipality discriminate against any country that discriminates against Canada.

And the idea is proving so attractive it will likely be put to a vote during next month's annual meeting of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

Mayor Rick Bonnette says his town's action is not a "Buy Canadian" response, but he does want Canadian municipalities — which will be spending the lion's share of the federal government's $12-billion infrastructure program — to shut the door to contract bidders from the U.S. until that country opens its doors to Canadian firms.

"There comes a point where you can't stand by and do nothing when people (are) losing their jobs," he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Innovation makes its mark on T.O.

CEREMONY Ontario's best and brightest minds were celebrated during the annual Premier's Innovation Awards, held yesterday in Toronto.

The awards' benefactor Dalton McGuinty, and Ontario Minister of Research and Innovation John Wilkinson were on hand to honour the 13 'outstanding scientific achievements' recognized in three categories. Nearly $13 million was awarded to the winners.

These included an award of $200,000 given to Dr. Bin Ma who created a protein identifying software, and to Dr. Navid Zargari, who developed a unique electric motor drive. MARK ATKINSON/ FOR METRO TORONTO

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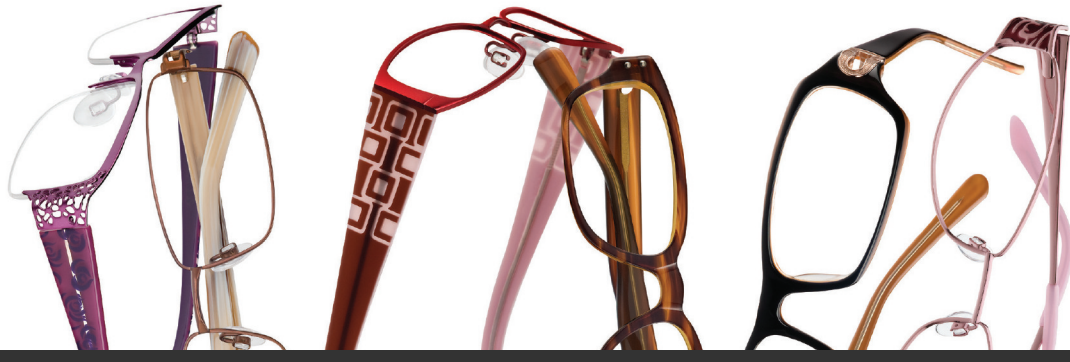

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Newfoundland and Labrador nurses won't work OT in labour dispute
Unionized nurses in Newfoundland and Labrador will stop working overtime beginning May 20 because of a dispute over a final contract offer from the provincial government. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Saskatchewan eateries go online

Saskatchewan residents looking to dine out can now go online to get health information about their favourite eateries. The provincial government is serving up public health inspection reports for restaurant-type facilities on the Internet. Inspections involving more than 5,000 restaurants will be added to a link on the Ministry of Health website.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

INVESTIGATION Allegations that Canadian commanders turned a blind eye to sexual abuse of young boys by Afghan soldiers and police have been dismissed as unfounded by military investigators. The Canadian Forces National Investigative Service, which oversees military police, says it has determined allegations made by returning soldiers and the pastors who counselled them contained "serious discrepancies" and could not be verified.

TRIAL The lawyer for Ottawa Mayor Larry O'Brien in an influence-peddling trial called his accuser "totally clueless" during a heated cross-examination yesterday. Lawyer Michael Edelson has spent the better part of two days questioning Terry Kilrea, who claims O'Brien offered him an inducement to quit Ottawa's 2006 municipal election.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ex-PM kept secret

Brian Mulroney says it was fear of reliving the Airbus affair — and the emotional bruises it left on him and his loved ones — that led him to keep his financial relations with arms dealer Karlheinz Schreiber secret for a decade.

The former prime minister, by turns indignant, combative and jocular in a vintage performance at a public inquiry yesterday, insisted he did nothing wrong "of any kind at any time" in his dealings with Schreiber.

It was just that he didn't want to resurrect the unhappy memories that flowed from the 1988 sale of European-built Airbus jets to Air Canada.

"The enormity of those events scarred me and my family for life," Mulroney told the inquiry.

ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Former prime minister Brian Mulroney speaks with his counsel, Guy Pratt, yesterday during a break in testimony in Ottawa.

Mulroney has admitted accepting $225,000 — Schreiber claims it was $300,000 — to promote the project in 1993-94. But he didn't declare the money for tax purposes until 1999.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

$300M wasted by defence officials: Auditor general

National Defence gave up $300 million in desperately needed funding last year because of bureaucratic foot-dragging, the auditor general said yesterday in her latest report on federal financial gaffes.

Defence officials were unable to get enough accurate information to senior managers in time for them to decide how to spend surplus money within the department's budget, Sheila Fraser noted.

The cash is now "permanently unavailable to the department to meet its ongoing requirements," said Fraser's examination of defence spending, one of seven reports tabled in Parliament.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Auditor general highlights

- Some highlights of auditor general Sheila Fraser's report to Parliament yesterday:
- Corporations have been depositing unnecessary cash with the Canada Revenue Agency to profit from the agency's generous interest rates — a corporate benefit that costs taxpayers $30 million per year.
- Federal departments are failing to assess the impact on women of policies and legislation, despite a 1995 commitment.
- The environment commissioner says the federal government has overestimated the effectiveness of its climate-change program in reducing greenhouse gases.

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U.S. wins seat on UN human rights council

The U.S. and four countries accused of serious human rights violations — Cuba, Saudi Arabia, China and Russia – have won seats on the UN Human Rights Council. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Schoolgirls gassed?

Taliban blamed for 2nd incident in two days

Afghan authorities accused the Taliban and their allies of launching an apparent poison gas attack yesterday that caused dozens of schoolgirls to collapse with headaches and nausea at their school.

The students were in the schoolyard when a strange odour filled the area. First one girl collapsed, then others, said the school's principal, Mossena.

Teachers told the students to go home. Mossena said she didn't know what happened next because she collapsed and woke up in the main hospital in Muhmud Raqi, the capital of Kapisa province, just northeast of Kabul.

At least 98 people were admitted, including 84 students and 11 teachers.

The third alleged poisoning incident at a girls school in two weeks and the second in as many days has raised concerns the Taliban have found a new weapon to scare girls into staying at home rather than going to class.

On Monday, 61 schoolgirls and one teacher went to the hospital in neighbouring Parwan province with a sudden illness that caused some to pass out.

In late April, dozens of girls were hospitalized in Parwan after being sickened by strong fumes.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wave of attacks

- Eleven Taliban suicide bombers attacked government buildings in eastern Afghanistan yesterday, sparking gun battles that killed 20 people. American and Afghan troops freed 20 hostages taken by insurgents.

Weather **Saudis taste a cold one**

HASAN AMMAR/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Saudis enjoy a rare snowfall yesterday in Al Baha city, in southwestern Saudi Arabia. The tourist city was drenched with torrential rain and gusty winds with snow capping the mountains and covering the valleys and forests of Al-Zaraeb and Khayrah.

Shell kills patients: Witness

SRI LANKA A mortar shell struck the only functioning medical facility in Sri Lanka's northern war zone yesterday, killing 47 patients and bystanders and wounding more than 50 others, the rebels and a health worker in the area said.

The health worker at the makeshift hospital said one mortar shell landed in the admissions ward that had been set up in a temporary shelter about 7:30 a.m., killing 47 patients and bystanders and sending patients fleeing for their lives. A hospital administrator was among those killed.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

50,000 The number of civilians trapped in the war zone.

Pope not apologetic enough over Holocaust, critics say

VISIT The Vatican defended the Pope yesterday from a chorus of Israeli critics who accused the German-born Benedict of failing to express enough remorse for the Holocaust.

Newspapers lambasted the Pope for failing to apologize for what many in Israel see as Catholic indifference during the Second World War.

Despite the controversies, the Pope has been warmly welcomed by Israeli dignitaries, Muslim clerics and Christian followers at every stop.

The Pope delivered messages of peace while visiting the holiest Muslim and Jewish sites in Jerusalem — the Dome of the Rock and the Western Wall.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

THE NETHERLANDS Thieves pried open the emergency door of a small Dutch museum with an iron bar and made off with six 17th- and 19th-century landscape paintings. An alarm summoned police within minutes but the burglars already had fled, leaving behind two paintings they dropped in their haste and damaged.

SOMALIA Fierce fighting in Somalia's capital Mogadishu has killed 113 civilians in the past three days and forced more than 27,000 to flee their homes, a human rights organization said yesterday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Comment & Views

Comment

Canadians: We play well with others

TheWestView

Paul Sullivan

metronews.ca/thewestview

In Canada, it's easy to walk on the SunnySide of the street. I say this with confidence even though I've spent many of the last three decades doing what we in the media do best — panic-mongering.

That's why we're journalists; we're jacked up by 200-point bold bad news headlines, the badder the better. When editors get together at the end of the year and pick the top story, it's always some disaster, never a good news story. Good news is a cute puppy that goes at the end of a newscast or on page 27, a grudging change of pace from your hard-bitten friends in the news.

So we have a tendency to miss the forest for the trees, or even worse, focus on the bugs on the trees, as is the case here in B.C. where the pine beetle has made it hard to look at vast tracts of dead trees.

Oops, there I go again.

Anyway, it's easy to get high on Canada because … well, just look around you. This is the freaking second biggest country in the world. How often do we even think about that? If you live in Vancouver, the world ends in Chilliwack, after that, there are mountains, and way, way farther away, Toronto. Scary. And if you live in Toronto, you can't venture west of Mississauga without suffering a nosebleed. If you live in Montreal, you refuse to recognize the legitimacy of Vancouver and Toronto altogether as you sit in a café on Rue St-Denis, Centre of the Universe.

Maybe it's just too big

SunnySide

and beautiful to get your head around it, never mind your arms.

The rest of the world doesn't seem to have that problem. In the immortal words of Sally Field, they like us, they really like us. Once again, we're in the top five of the 215 nations tracked in Mercer Consulting's annual Quality of Living Survey; our American cousins barely crack the top 30 and that's because San Francisco and Honolulu skew the results. Another ranks us among the top 10 nations in the world for happiness, along with traditional warm puppies Denmark and Switzerland.

And if you're not tired of surveys yet, how about this one? While the rest of the world is in the economic tank, the Economic Intelligence Unit's global business survey for 2009-13 ranks Canada first in the G7 as "the best place to invest and do business."

Who knew?

The very best thing about Canada is the thing that infuriates many, but makes us the hope of civilization — it's called multiculturalism, which means whoever you are, wherever you're from, you check your guns at the door, and if you want to live here, you learn to play well with others.

On this sunny day, let's give the last word to an American, one of our biggest fans: Bill Clinton.

"In a world darkened by ethnic conflicts that tear nations apart, Canada stands as a model of how people of different cultures can live and work together in peace, prosperity, and mutual respect."

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.

Word on the street: What's great about Toronto?

Daniella Olivito
age 22, Toronto
A: A lot of the city's heritage is preserved. I like the mix of new and old everywhere … Heritage buildings aren't torn down to build condos.

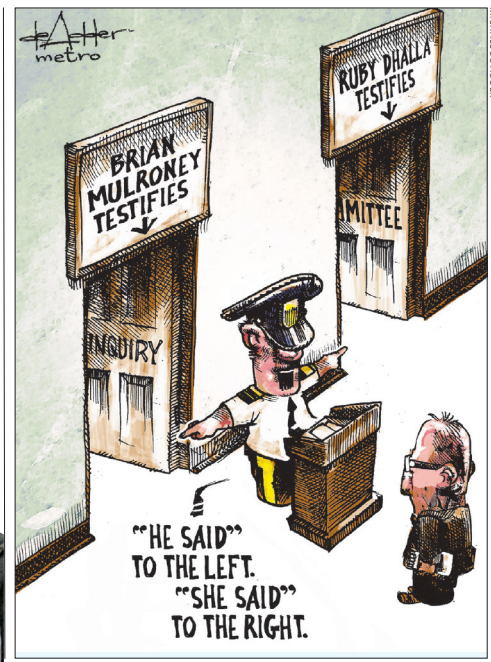
Matthew Snowball
age 29, Toronto
A: Johnny's Charbroiled Hamburgers … Victoria Park and Sheppard.

John Komac
age 45, Toronto
A: Everything. You can do anything here, at any time of the day or night. There's always something to do here.

Sidney Szatkowski
age 21, Toronto
A: I can be who I am and not have to lie here … on the basis of safety and acceptance.

Julian Gadd
age 23, Toronto
A: The diversity, the different neighbourhoods you can go to to experience the different cultures.

Melissa Wells
age 23, Toronto
A: I enjoy the nightlife. I like that the city's big enough that there's always a new club to experience.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Tell us your views by email to torontoletters@metronews.ca or comment on metronews.ca or on Twitter @metrotoronto
Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number – street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

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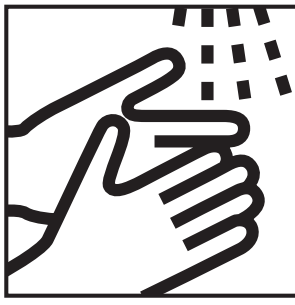

H1N1 Flu Virus: the best way to stay healthy is to wash your hands thoroughly and often or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

For information, visit: **ontario.ca/flu**
Or call **ServiceOntario INFOline at: 1-800-476-9708** | **TTY: 1-800-387-5559**
If you have symptoms, call **Telehealth Ontario at: 1-866-797-0000** | **TTY: 1-866-797-0007**
Or contact your health care provider.

Ontario

Court rejects aboriginal bid to block pipelines

The Federal Court of Canada has rejected a bid by Manitoba aboriginal bands to block construction of three pipeline projects, saying they were not treated unfairly when the Keystone pipeline proposed by TransCanada Keystone Pipeline GP Ltd. was approved. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business

DOLLAR		OIL	TSX
0.28¢	C$ 86.06¢ US	$58.85 US	10,077.77
	US$ $1.1620	35¢	16.44

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Aeroplan to ease airline cash crisis

REWARD Aeroplan may extend an accelerated payment deal it struck in December with Air Canada to help ward off a liquidity crunch at the airline. The payments were for reward seats booked by Aeroplan. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

George Weston hungry to grow

SHOPPING George Weston Ltd. is shopping for "strategic options" after plumping up its holdings of cash and short-term investments to $4.9 billion.

It reported a first-quarter profit of $863 million thanks to the sale of its U.S. fresh-bakery business. THE CANADIAN PRESS

PAUL SANCYA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

General Motors world headquarters in Detroit.

GM shares plunge to new low

TUMBLE Shares of General Motors Corp. tumbled to their lowest level since 1933 yesterday as investors feared significant dilution of their stock values or bankruptcy as the company approached a June 1 restructuring deadline.

GM stock was briefly down to $1.09 US, and closed at $1.15 US, down 20 per cent on the day.

GM said six top executives sold 200,000 shares on Friday and Monday, including retiring vice-chairman Bob Lutz, who sold 81,360 shares at $1.61 each. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Trade surplus rises to $1.1B

Canadians got a morsel of encouraging economic news yesterday as the monthly trade surplus increased to $1.1 billion.

But another report showed an ongoing swelling in the ranks of the bankrupt. Insolvencies in March totalled 14,244, up 15.6 per cent from February and 51.3 per cent from March of last year.

6,300 Total insolvencies in Ontario in March, up by 57 per cent from a year ago.

The $1.1-billion surplus in Canada's merchandise trade with the world was quadruple the $262-million surplus in February and more than double the $500 million expected by economists.

"Too bad that it (trade surplus) came for all the wrong reasons," said Krishen Rangasamy of CIBC World Markets. "March's surplus was entirely due to a large drop in imports, which signifies weakening domestic demand, and the drop in exports emphasizes that global demand is still very weak." THE CANADIAN PRESS

In brief

BILL France's lower house has passed a bill that would cut the Internet connections of those who download music and films illegally. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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camh Centre for Addiction and Mental Health Centre de toxicomanie et de santé mentale

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Recreational activities near hydro stations and dams are dangerous
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SEL Model Shown

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Focus SE Manual***

SES Model shown. MSRP $19,999

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Ford Drive one.

WISE BUYERS READ THE LEGAL COPY: ‡‡ Ford quality is based on cumulative survey data of 2008 model year Ford, Lincoln and competitive owners at three months of service in three surveys, conducted 5/07-5/08. †† Fuel efficiency figures based on the Ford Motor Company Canada, 2009 ratings. At actual fuel consumption may vary based on road conditions, vehicle loading, and vehicle equipment and driving habits. ** "All-Top" consumption ratings based on Transport Canada approved test methods. Actual fuel consumption may vary based on road conditions, vehicle loading and driving habits. ** Safety ratings based on insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) Top Safety Picks historical data from 2006 to 2009 and on the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) historical five-star crash test ratings. Government star ratings are part of the NHTSA's New Car Assessment Program (www.safercar.gov). † Based on estimated fuel consumption ratings. Fusion Hybrid 4.6L/100km city and 5.4L/100km hwy or Fusion S, I-4 automatic 8.9L/100km city and 5.8L/100km hwy (excluding hybrid). Mid-size class per R.L. Polk Canada, Inc. Limited quantities of Fusion S available in Canada. The Ford Five-O Event ("Five-O") is in effect from May 1, 2009 to June 30, 2009 at participating Ford of Canada Dealerships. During the Five-O Event one or more combinations of $0 first month's payment, 0% APR purchase financing for up to 60 months, $0 down payment, $0 due at signing, and $0 security deposit will apply to the purchase finance or lease of select new 2009 and 2010 Ford vehicles. Offers vary by model and not all combinations will apply. Offers are available to retail customers only. Offers include freight and air tax, but exclude license, insurance, PPSA, registration, administration fees and all applicable taxes. These offers are subject to vehicle availability and may be cancelled at any time without notice. Dealer may set or lease for less. Limited time offers. Some conditions apply. ‡ $0 first month's payment required on the purchase finance or lease of all new 2009 and 2010 Ford vehicles delivered on or before June 30, 2009. Offer valid from May 1, 2009 to June 30, 2009. First monthly payment will be paid up to a maximum amount of $500 ($750 $1,000 per eligible 2009 and 2010 Focus, Fusion, Mustang, Taurus, Escape, Ranger / Edge, Flex, Taurus X, Explorer 4Dr, Explorer Sport Trac, E-Series / Expedition, F-150, F-Super Duty. Offer only available to customers who finance or lease through Ford Credit. Offer not available to cash purchase customers. Offer is only available on approved credit (OAC) from Ford Credit. A, X, Z plan customers are eligible for $0 first month payment, see dealer for details. Not combinable with Commercial Fleet Incentive program, CPA, GPC or Daily Rental Allowances. Rainchecks only available on the purchase of eligible vehicles. † from May 1, 2009 to June 30, 2009, pay $0 first month's purchase finance payment at your participating Ford dealer and the remaining 59 months of the total 60 month purchase finance contract, receive 0% APR purchase financing on most new 2009 Ford Focus, Fusion and Escape models. Offer valid from May 1, 2009 to June 30, 2009. First monthly payment is due 1 week after the date of delivery. Offer available on retail customers only. Offers include freight and air tax, but exclude license, insurance, PPSA, administration fees and all applicable taxes. Excluded variable charges can be amortized over a purchase financing term, but are required up front charges for lease customers. See your Ford Dealer for complete details or call 1-888-566-3333. * "Triangle" $50 Security Deposit on the lease of most new 2009 and 2010 Ford vehicles (excluding 2009 Ford Shelby GT 500 & 500KR, E-Series Cutaway, F-350 Chassis Cabs, F-450 & F-550 Chassis Cabs Gas & Diesel Engines / 2010 Ford Shelby GT500 & 500KR, Transit Connect, E-Series Cutaway, F-350 Chassis Cabs Gas & Diesel Engines) effective April 1, 2009 through June 30, 2009. Security Deposit may be required by Ford Credit based on customer credit terms and conditions.

Test Drive Contest Rules: § No purchase necessary. To enter, visit your participating local Toronto Area Ford Dealer and request to test drive either a 2010 Ford fusion or 2009 Ford focus between May 1, 2009 and June 30, 2009. After your test drive, enter the contest by obtaining a ballot from a representative at the Toronto Area Ford dealership and completing all mandatory information. Submit the ballot at the ballot box located at the dealership. Open only to residents of Ontario who have reached the age of majority, hold a valid driver's license and have satisfactory proof of insurance at the time of entry. One entry per person during the Contest Period. One (1) prize will be awarded in Ontario, consisting of either a 2009 Ford Focus SE sedan with automatic transmission or a 2010 Ford fusion SE with automatic transmission (the "Prize"). The prize includes freight, air tax, gas, consumption tax, dealership administration fees, pre-delivery charges and all applicable taxes. Random draw will be conducted at 10:00 a.m. ET on July 8, 2009. Chances of winning are solely dependent on the total number of eligible entries received. Skill is required to win the Prize. See your local Toronto Area Ford Dealer for full contest details.

Running on chocolate

Designers at England's Warwick University have come up with a racing car that is powered by chocolate oils, BBC News reports. They said the body work was made from potatoes, the steering wheel from carrot fibres and the seat from soybean foam. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Metro Drive

MINI's 50th

Last week, MINI marked the 50th anniversary of its first production car. Overall, more than six million classic and new MINIs have been sold since the model first went on sale in 1959.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

A Sebring for all seasons

Convertible adds touch of practicality with retractable hardtop

LORNE DRURY
for Metro Canada

Only two hours by car from Los Angeles, Palm Springs has long been a favourite getaway destination for the stars.

Hollywood's finest have had off-season and weekend retreats in this desert playground since the 1920s, drawn by the beautiful weather, the mountain views and the small town atmosphere.

What makes Palm Springs so desirable is the sunshine — the valley community averages 350 days of sun a year.

Of course, with all that sunshine, a convertible is the car of choice among residents and visitors alike and our 2009 Chrysler Sebring Convertible test car fits right in with the crowd. Almost every other car you see on the streets is a convertible and the Sebring is at or near the top of the popularity scale along with older Mercedes models and Ford Mustangs.

For anyone contemplating a convertible, our test car was equipped with a retractable hardtop, which is offered as an option. A cloth, folding top is standard. If you want a car for all seasons, this is the way to go.

The 2009 Chrysler Sebring Convertible is offered with soft or retractable hardtop and the choice of three engines. Trim levels are LX, Touring and Limited.

It has the looks and feel of a coupe for the cold weather months and it transforms into a convertible in only a matter of seconds.

Volkswagen and Volvo also offer similar retractable hardtops in the Eos and C70 models, but at a higher price than the Sebring.

The Sebring Convertible is available in three trim levels with some great prices being offered these days — the LX starts at $20,495 with a 173 hp 2.4-litre I-4 engine, the Touring at $24,295 with a 189 hp 2.7-litre V6 and the Limited at $31,695 with a 235 hp 3.5-litre V6. The first two come with a four-speed automatic transmission, while the Limited's V6 comes with a six-speed automatic with Auto Stick.

During our trip we experienced both city and highway environments with the Sebring. With the larger of the two V6 engines under the hood, our tester had more than enough power for merging into traffic on high-speed freeways in and around Los Angeles. It would be nice to have a little more power than the 3.5-litre V6 offers, but it would come at the expense of fuel economy.

In the city, the car feels heavy and a bit awkward. Its high rear end makes backing into parking spots a bit of a chore.

With the top up, the trunk is spacious enough to hold four golf bags, although two big suitcases just fit with a bit of pushing and pulling. With the top down, trunk space is compromised with room for two golf bags. The trunk lid is extremely heavy and awkward without a handle to grab onto.

Fuel ratings for the 3.5-litre V6 automatic are 12.9L/100 km and 7.4L/100 km highway.

2009 Chrysler Sebring Convertible

Type: Two-door convertible
Price: LX $20,495; Touring $25,295; Limited $31,695
Engine: 2.4-litre four cylinder 16-valve DOHC (173 hp, 166 lb/ft); 2.7-litre 24-valve DOHC V6 (186 hp, 191 lb/ft); 3.5-litre SOHC 24-valve V6 (235 hp, 232 lb/ft)

Highlights

- Attractive pricing
- Retractable hardtop ensures use all-year long

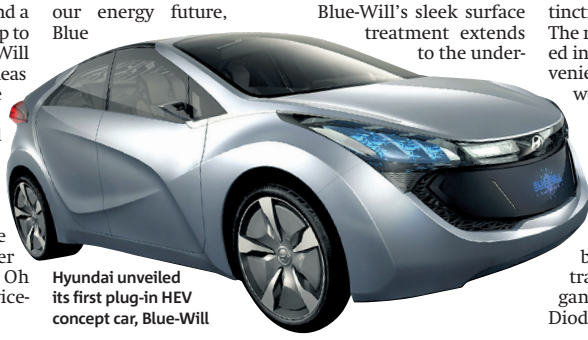
Hyundai plugs into futuristic Blue-Will

FIRST LOOK Hyundai unveiled its first plug-in HEV concept car at the recent Seoul motor show. Named Blue-Will, the futuristic car promises an electric-only driving distance of up to 64 km on a single charge and a fuel economy rating of up to 2.2 litres/100 km. Blue-Will is a test bed of new ideas that range from the unique profile to drive-by-wire steering and touch screen controls.

The car is the fourth in a series of innovative concept vehicles to come out of the Namyang Design Center currently headed by Oh Suk-Geun, executive vice-president of design.

"The innovative form language gives perfect expression to the advanced eco-friendly technologies found on Blue-Will," said Oh. "At a time of rising concern about the environment and our energy future, Blue Will demonstrates to eco-conscious car buyers everywhere that Hyundai has practical hybrid solutions that will appear on the next generation of vehicles," he added.

Blue-Will's sleek surface treatment extends to the underbody where a full-length cover has been applied to minimize aerodynamic drag whilst maximizing fuel economy.



Hyundai unveiled its first plug-in HEV concept car, Blue-Will

The LED panel on the front expresses a highly distinctive, futuristic image. The rear bike rack, integrated into the trunk, adds convenience. To minimize weight, carbon-fibre reinforced plastics and nano composites have been applied to the side sills, moldings and fenders.

The conventional gauge cluster has been replaced by an ultra-thin Transparent Organic Light Emitting Diode display mounted on the steering column which is adjustable for rake and distance.

Thin-film TOLED technology allows information to be displayed in full high resolution colour.

The Blue-Will concept is powered by an all-aluminum 152 hp gasoline direct injected 1.6L engine, coupled to a Continuously Variable Transmission and a 100kw electric motor which is at the heart of the new Hyundai.

This parallel hybrid drive architecture serves as the foundation for future Hyundai hybrids, starting with the next-generation Sonata for North America.

FROM CARGUIDE

The Subaru Impreza.

Subaru models named Best Bets

ONLINE The 2009 Subaru Impreza, Subaru Impreza WRX STI and Subaru Forester have each been named a "Best Bet" by U.S. online car shopping service. According to Cars.com, the two Subaru Imprezas are each a "Best Bet for Sports Cars," and the Subaru Forester has been recognized as a "Best Bet for SUVs and Crossovers."

FROM CARGUIDE

High demand for Nano

There are already more than 203,000 fully-paid bookings for the world's cheapest car Nano, Tata Motors has announced. The order is estimated to be worth $101 million US. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Take a cruise night pill to chill

AutoPilot

Mike Goetz

metronews.ca/autopilot

Current discussions about the automobile and the automobile industry tend to be, well, serious and sobering. Balance sheet stuff. Employment stuff. Carbon footprint stuff. For sure, all necessary things to hash out.

But the longer I keep hearing it, and the closer we move to summer, the more it reminds me of those late spring days, several decades ago, when I was trapped in Mr. Ferber's Grade 9 history class.

Notwithstanding the valiant attempts he made to make the activities of those early parliamentarians as interesting as possible, the activities outside the windows always seemed more interesting — especially if certain people walked by, or any 1970s muscle car rumbled by.

So let's imagine that the bell has rung, and we've been sprung loose for the day. You're no longer obligated to consider weighty matters. As the vaudeville guys are prone to say, "time for some song and dance, and a little seltzer down the pants."

And at this time of year, there is a very easy and inexpensive way to lighten the automotive mood — check out a local cruise night.

Now, this type of "cruising" is an evolution from the original cruising scene of the '40s, '50s and early '60s.

Those cruising pioneers were looking to be seen and/or for some street racing action. They congregated at various points in the nights at various roadside diners and take-out joints — a drive-around lifestyle perfectly depicted in the 1973 film, American Graffiti.

Indulge in night-time cruising events to lighten the automotive mood, our columnist says.

The film created resurgence in hot-rod culture, particularly on the competition side — big shows, big trophies, big builders, big show-car prices. With the focus of the scene on these weekend professional "car shows," there was less informal "cruising around" during the week, a trend that continued into the 1980s.

But by the late 1980s, these weekday "cruise nights" started popping up. And it's not hard to see why. You didn't need a trophy-winning ride. You didn't need to tie up a weekend. You didn't need to spend big bucks on entry fees and travel. Just finish your dinner, grab the keys, and go.

There is not much drifting from scene to scene any more; once they've arrived, these modern cruisers park their rides and take out the lawn chairs.

And you don't have to be a sociologist, to see that the demographics are different too. The characters in American Graffiti were teenagers. Today's cruise night participants tend not to be teenagers.

These days cruising events are extremely well organized, whether by local car clubs, charitable groups, local businesses, or semi-professional types. Many even receive sponsorship support from companies like A&W and Canadian Tire.

This might seem a bit too organized for those who see hot-rodding more as a counter culture activity. But what can you do? It's still miles better than history class.

Michael Goetz has been writing about cars and editing automotive publications for more than 20 years. He lives in Toronto with his family and a neglected 1967 Jaguar E-type.

Surfin' & cruisin'

- To find a cool time-wasting cruising event in your area, check out websites like aw.ca/cruisin-the-dub.nsf/HOME and lantins.ca/cruise.php

Being safe with airbags

JIL MCINTOSH
for Metro Canada

Would you let your child put her feet out in front of her, and then have something slam into them at about 300 km/h? Of course you wouldn't. So why do you let her ride with her feet up on the dash of your car?

Teens — and a surprising number of adults — think it's cool to ride this way. But in the blink of an eye, the airbag could cause irreparable damage.

Every new car has at least two frontal airbags, in the centre of the steering wheel, and in the passenger side of the dash. In a frontal crash, these bags inflate with hot nitrogen gas within about 40 milliseconds. The bag is coming toward you at anywhere from 240 to 400 km/h.

And despite the fact that there's the equivalent of a shotgun shell inside the dash, people still let their children ride this way, slouched in the seat with their feet up top.

If there's a crash, and they're lucky, they'll only break their legs. If they aren't, that bag will slam the thigh bones through the pelvis.

Airbags are a double-edged sword. They can prevent serious injury if you exercise caution around them, but they can also cause serious injury if you don't.

Airbags are designed to prevent serious injury but if you don't exercise caution around them, they might be deadly.

Even state-of-the-art bags that inflate at a lower velocity when the system senses a smaller person in the seat still deploy with enough force to be dangerous or even deadly if you don't respect them. Unlike in the movies, they don't gently inflate and act as feather pillows.

In any seat, always sit up straight and wear your seatbelt. The airbag is designed in conjunction with the belt, which holds you in the proper position so the bag protects instead of injures you.

When driving, hold the wheel correctly. If you "hook" the wheel underhanded on a turn, holding it with your palm facing you, a deploying airbag will snap your wrist.

If you hold the wheel one-handed at the top, your rings and watch will be shot into your face. It's safest to hold the wheel with both hands, at nine-and-three. Don't curl your thumbs around the wheel, as they can be broken.

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2009 ASTRA® 5-Door XR model shown

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2009 VUE XE

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2009 AURA® XR model shown

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Shell gas giveaway

Shell will be giving away its new greener, nitrogen-enriched gasoline for free at a secret GTA gas station tomorrow to the first 400 customers. The venue will be announced through 104.5 CHUM FM on the morning of the event. METRO NEWS SERVICES

The Nissan Rogue for 2009 has few changes from 2008 when it made a successful debut in the small crossover marketplace.

Plenty to love in Rogue

LORNE DRURY
for Metro Canada

The Nissan Rogue has been one of the best-selling crossover vehicles on the market for the past couple of years.

Built on the same "C" platform as the Sentra sedan, it has been a hit right from its debut.

The sporty compact crossover utility vehicle (CUV) came to market at a time when people were moving out of their larger sport utility vehicles (SUV) in droves as gasoline prices had skyrocketed well above the $1 a litre mark.

Fuel prices have now dropped to more reasonable levels, but compact crossovers continue to attract the attention of consumers.

However, what helps set the Rogue apart is its aggressive styling— it's not quite a mini Murano, but certainly the Murano DNA is all over it. It has a sleek, slippery exterior look and a wide, aggressive stance.

The interior of the 2009 Nissan Rogue is as stylish as the exterior, with soft-touch plastics and nice use of faux chrome accents.

The Rogue for 2009 is virtually unchanged from 2008 except for the addition of auto-locking power door locks.

Sometimes the lack of change in a product is viewed as a negative, but with the Rogue many would say, "Why change what ain't broke!"

The Rogue is available in S and SL models, with front- or all-wheel drive. A 2.5-litre four-cylinder engine, producing 170 hp, is standard. It is mated with Nissan's Xtronic continuously variable transmission (CVT). Also standard are traction control, four-wheel disc brakes with anti-lock and vehicle dynamic control.

The interior is just as attractive as the exterior, with the driver occupying a cockpit-like seating area. The instrument panel is well designed and the speedometer and tachometer are front and centre, easy to read through the steering wheel opening. The two gauges are chrome trimmed and the instrument panel illumination is reddish-orange in colour.

2009 Nissan Rogue

Type: Compact crossover
Price: $24,398 to $34,298
Engine: 2.5-litre four cylinder (170 hp, 175 lb/ft) with CVT transmission

Highlights

- Sleek exterior, interior
- Car-like handling

Prices for the Rogue start at $24,398 and top out at $34,298 for the all-wheel drive SL with leather and technology packages.

Many crossover customers are looking for car-like ride and handling and the Rogue delivers. The seats are supportive and comfortable and the ride is relatively smooth, even over pothole-scarred roads thanks to four-wheel independent suspension.

Fuel economy for the Rogue's 2.5-litre four-cylinder engine is impressive, with the front-wheel drive version getting 9.1L/100 km city and 7.2L/100 km highway.

Driving the drama at steering wheel

EMMA E FORREST
Metro World News

"It's important for a character to have the right car, it's like their clothes, it helps define who they are," explains Gurinder Chadha, director of films including Keira Knightley's first hit, Bend it Like Beckham.

She's sitting in a brand new Ford Focus on the set of It's a Wonderful Afterlife, the new film she's shooting in London.

"Cars are a great place for rows as nobody can leave, or you can 'stop the car', creating drama, with somebody walking off and the car driving away," says Chadha.

"It's about the dialogue and the context, who they are and why they're in the car."

Nobody drove in the scene she's just wrapped, but it features five cars, including an SUV, an ambulance, a police car, each carefully chosen for their character by Chadha and her art department.

"You might not notice them, but because they belong to the character they should be there. You need to employ a special action vehicle person whose job it is to just move the cars around."

Shooting a car is complex. For a start, space is restricted. Originally actors used to sit in a car in a studio and project a moving road behind. Then directors put cars on low loaders, a large, low trailer that could hold the car and the cameras around it.

Cars were chosen according to characters in It's A Wonderful Afterlife, the upcoming film from Bend It Like Beckham director Gurinder Chadha.

Nowadays it's more common to use CGI, shooting car scenes with a green screen in a studio, and fusing interior shots with background in post-production.

Meanwhile, actors have to be insured on their characters' cars — and drive them. Yesterday one of Chadha's actors ploughed into a fence, and some can't even drive at all.

"In those situations you just turn the engine on and just cut there, turn the engine off, and then someone pushes it from the back so it looks as if they're starting to pull off."

The 2007 Ford Mondeo at work on the set of Casino Royale.

Porsche adds new Cayenne

LIMITED EDITION Porsche is expanding the successful Cayenne range with the Cayenne GTS Porsche Design Edition 3 which will be limited to just one thousand numbered units worldwide.

This new Cayenne model features styling cues that underline the V8-powered, high-performance personality of this Porsche and became available to special customer order this month.

Inside the Cayenne Porsche Design Edition 3, the exclusive treatment continues with black leather upholstery throughout, with red contrasting seams on the instrument panel and doors.

A three-spoke multifunction steering wheel, in turn, raises the car's unique sporting character even higher.

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MLSE named worst NHL owners

Citing the 42-year Stanley Cup drought of the Toronto Maple Leafs and the "dysfunctional relationship between the two principals — Richard Peddie and Larry Tannenbaum," Sports Illustrated has named MLSE as the worst team owners in the NHL. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

Ferrari threatens F1 pullout

Ferrari said yesterday it won't enter next season's Formula One championship unless the sport's governing body revokes its new budget cap. The storied Italian team, which has been involved in all 60 seasons of F1 racing, said the new FIA guidelines were arbitrary and would set a double standard. It said equal rules for everyone are necessary for the sport to continue. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

Doc schools protege Burnett

MLB RESULTS

Toronto 5 New York 1

They were teammates and rivals, and later teammates and friends.

During their three seasons together with the Toronto Blue Jays, Roy Halladay taught A.J. Burnett how to harness his vast skills, how to think the game, how to pitch.

In turn, Burnett taught Halladay that it was OK to let up a little bit between starts, OK to make room for some fun, OK not to be single-minded in focus every single day.

But Halladay was always the mentor and Burnett always the protege, and last night when they met as opponents for the first time they reminded everyone exactly why.

Halladay shut off the hype of their matchup and an electric crowd of 43,737 to focus in and methodically dissect the New York Yankees, while the Blue Jays capitalized on a bout of Burnett's trademark wildness in a three-run fourth for a 5-1 victory.

It was as brilliant a night of baseball as Toronto has seen in a long time, and the game lived up to every last bit of its billing.

"This is what you play the game for, matchups like this," manager Cito Gaston said before the game.

Halladay (7-1) was better than dominant in his first complete game this season, Scott Rolen hit a key two-run double and Aaron Hill homered as the Blue Jays won their third straight, doing it against Burnett (2-1), the pitcher who spurned them over the winter by opting out of the final two years in his $55-million US, five-year deal, eventually reaching an $82.5-million, five-year agreement with the Yankees.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A.J. Burnett wipes off sweat in the fourth inning last night as the Toronto Blue Jays hosted the New York Yankees. The game marked Burnett's first trip to Toronto since he opted out of a contract with the Blue Jays. Inset: Fans jeer Burnett last night at the Rogers Centre.

Bruins stave off elimination, force Game 7

Stanley Cup
2009 **Playoffs**

NHL RESULTS

Boston 4 Carolina 2

Mark Recchi had a goal and an assist and the Boston Bruins beat the Carolina Hurricanes 4-2 last night to even the Eastern Conference NHL semi-finals and force a decisive Game 7.

Marc Savard scored before leaving in the third period with an apparent leg injury. Steve Montador and Chuck Kobasew also connected, Patrice Bergeron had two assists and Tim Thomas stopped 31 shots in his second straight victory.

The NHL's top remaining seed led 2-0 barely five minutes in and made it stand to win its second straight since falling behind 3-1 in the series. Its reward: A trip back to Boston for tomorrow night's Game 7, their first at home since losing in the first round to Montreal in 2004.

Matt Cullen and Sergei Samsonov scored for the Hurricanes. Their first losing streak of the playoffs has put them in danger of blowing a 3-1 series lead for the first time in franchise history.

Then again, Game 7s are nothing new for Carolina. Each of the Hurricanes' previous three playoff series dating to the 2006 Stanley Cup run also went the full seven games, and they won all three.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

For a complete recap of last night's NHL playoff action, visit: **metronews.ca/sports**

Celtics rally for Game 5 win over Magic

NBA
2009 **Playoffs**

BASKETBALL Ray Allen's three-pointer with 1:20 left gave Boston its first lead since the opening minutes and the Celtics beat the Orlando Magic 92-88 last night to take a 3-2 lead in the Eastern Conference NBA semifinals.

Stephon Marbury scored all of his 12 points in the fourth quarter, keeping the Celtics in the game after a lacklustre 36 minutes that left them trailing by 14 with 8:49 to play.

Orlando led 85-75 with 5:39 left, then Boston scored the next 13 points to open an 88-85 lead before Rashard Lewis' free throws with 7.3 seconds left.

Paul Pierce had 19 points, nine rebounds and eight assists and Game 4 hero Glen (Big Baby) Davis scored 10 of his 21 points in the fourth quarter.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

For a complete recap of last night's NBA playoff action, visit: **metronews.ca/sports**

Time off helped De Rosario: Coach

SOCCER Toronto FC coach Chris Cummins said yesterday that the stellar performances Dwayne De Rosario has turned in recently can be chalked up to missing two games with a hamstring injury.

"I think ... those couple of weeks off has done him the world of good," Cummins said as TFC finished preparations for tonight's second game of the Nutrilite Canadian Championship against the Montreal Impact at BMO Field.

In his return from the injury, De Rosario dazzled against the Vancouver Whitecaps in 1-0 win last week to open up the three-team competition. He ran at defenders all night and eventually set up the lone goal with a beautiful cross.

The Scarborough native followed that up in Saturday's 3-3 tie in Washington against D.C. United. He scored a pair, including a Major League Soccer goal-of-the-week nominee.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Sports in brief

CSL The 10-team Canadian Soccer League, which kicks off its season this weekend, announced yesterday it has received conditional approval to join the Canadian Soccer Association in 2010. That's seen as a precursor to expanding the semi-pro league to as many as 30 teams and hopefully joining in the Canadian championships.

FRIENDLY Canada's women's soccer team will host the United States in a friendly in Toronto after Japan cancelled a tour to North America, citing the swine flu outbreak. The Canadians face the U.S. on May 25 at BMO Field, the same day they were scheduled to host the Japanese.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Vancouver Island unites

Last month, the University of Victoria, Royal Roads University, Camosun College, Vancouver Island University, and North Island College entered into an agreement to establish the Vancouver Island Community Research Alliance. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

EDITOR: DOUGLAS DUNLOP, DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Stay connected in bad times

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

While the unemployment rate in Canada rises, job opportunities are growing for people ready to meld their information technology (IT) know-how with business and communications skills, experts say.

Terry Power, president of IT staffing firm Sapphire Technology Canada, says IT skills have become a focus of employers who are actively looking for people with the right combination of IT and business skills, especially to take on executive and management positions.

"Anything that marries business and technology together will continue to be important going forward and we're seeing the greatest strength in senior-level roles," Power said.

While the unemployment rate recently surpassed eight per cent across the country, Powers says the jobless rate in IT hovers around 3.5 per cent, showing that businesses place a high value on technology skills.

"IT has become much more strategic for many businesses over the last four or five years," he said.

While the IT sector is faring better than others in the current economy, Powers warns that the trend doesn't mean all IT jobs have stronger employment prospects — in fact it's the higher-level IT positions requiring specialized experience and skills that are in the most demand.

"There's an increase in positions requiring people with very specific experience and high-level skills. The generalist, without a lot of experience in a given area, is having a tougher time finding a job while the specialists are in demand," Power said.

For people with more general IT skills, Powers says the key to success will be to focus on the specific business advantages you can bring to the table.

"You must enhance your business relevance. Look at the last company you worked for and outline how you made a difference. Try and understand the business value that you bring," Power said.

Powers suggests thinking about how you can merge your business skills with technology in an effective way that maximizes your value to employers. Specifically, jobs in business analytics (analyzing data to explain trends and inform business decisions), customer communications and IT-based accounting skills are growing in demand, he says.

> **"Anything that marries business and technology will continue to be important."**
> Staffing firm president Terry Power

Even if you've lost your job, make sure to keep your finger on the pulse of what's happening in the industry and don't let valuable contacts slip away.

"The best advice I could give to anybody looking for a job is to stay connected — find a way to stay out there in your industry community and do your homework," Powers said.

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Centennial College, School of Continuing Education and the Trade and Investment Services Alliance (TISA) launch seminar series for entrepreneurs.

Beginning May 14, 2009, at Centennial College's Student Residence & Conference Centre, the series will include three seminars aiming to provide practical, applied information about financing international business. Participants can benefit from one or all of the seminars featuring top finance professionals and members of the Trade and Investment Services Alliance.

Seminars will explore a broad range of subjects that will provide participants with the tools to find, request and leverage financing for projects. Seminars will include case studies and subject areas will include:

May 14, 2009
Topic: *Accessing and Financing Opportunities in your Global Market*
Speakers: Mr. Louie Di Palma, Ontario Chamber of Commerce
Mr. Brent Prior, Economic Development Canada
Ms. Jasmin Ganie-Hobbs, Business Development Canada

May 28, 2009
Topic: *Strategic Development & Legal Issues of Going Global*
Speakers: Ms. M. J. Laverin, Laverin Legal
Mr. Robert Tjandra, PSR Energy Inc.

June 18, 2009
Topic: *Opportunities for Canadians with the Obama Stimulus package*
Speaker: Ms. Judy Bradt, Summitt Insights

Cost: $50.00
Location: Residence & Conference Centre, Room 103
940 Progress Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M1G 3T5
Time: 3:30 - 7:30 pm
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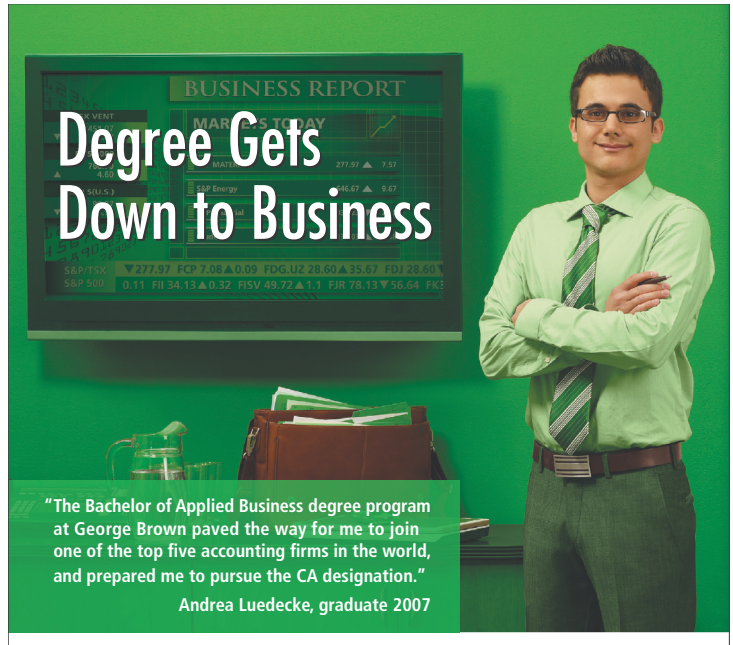

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Man dies after jumping from uWinnipeg residence
A 23-year-old man died Sunday evening after jumping from scaffolding at the McFeetors Hall: Great-West Life Student Residence at the University of Winnipeg. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Honesty always key in reasons for dismissal

WorkplaceLaw
Daniel Lublin
Metronews.ca/workplacelaw

"Every man has his fault, and honesty is his."
–WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

In the often twisted world of Canadian workplace law, both employers and employees tend to exaggerate facts in an effort to improve their own cases. Whether it's a deliberate strategy or a simple white lie, our courts are increasingly signalling their disdain when stories without the conviction of truth find their way to trial. A recent decision from British Columbia reminds us all that honesty remains the best policy.

About halfway through his apprenticeship as a repairman at Dams Ford Lincoln Sales Ltd. in Surrey, B. C., Tyler Marchen was given an envelope with two weeks' pay and his record of employment stating that he had been dismissed, and told to leave. When he asked why he was being fired, he was told that it was not up for discussion and that he was no longer welcome on the property.

After Marchen's dismissal, Dams made several comments suggesting that he was fired due to a police matter. Although Marchen was viewed as a good employee, his brother (who was also an employee at Dams) had been implicated in some thefts from the dealership. When a government employee called to request the reasons for Marchen's dismissal in order to qualify him for employment insurance, she was told it was due to a police issue and they couldn't risk keeping him on.

As Marchen and Dams had a fixed-term agreement for the duration of his apprenticeship, Marchen promptly sued Dams, claiming that he was entitled to the value of the remaining term of the contract. As soon as Marchen started his legal action, Dams changed its story. It called the employment insurance office and told it that, despite an investigation into Marchen's brother, it had actually fired Marchen because it had downsized its body shop.

If a company is not honest when it gives a reason for the dismissal of an employee, the company stands to lose a lot.

At trial, Dams' witnesses denied that Marchen was fired because of his brother's potential theft but maintained its story that there had simply been a lack of work. Judge Richard Goepel wasn't convinced. He found that Marchen was dismissed because of Dams' unfounded suspicion that he was involved in his brother's potential theft and that it had deliberately attempted to mislead the court as to its true motives.

Dams' decision to mislead the court turned a seemingly routine case for wrongful dismissal into a legal nightmare. Marchen was awarded over $18,000 in lost wages, another $25,000 for loss of training and status, $100,000 in punitive damages and most of his legal fees, usually awarded only in extraordinary circumstances.

The decision serves as a disincentive for companies to twist the facts of an employee's dismissal — and in doing so demonstrates the mounting arsenal of damages a court can award where it considers an employee to have been treated unfairly.

Daniel A. Lublin is an employment lawyer focusing on the law of dismissal; dan@toronto-employmentlawyer.com.

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Travel

Month of roses

In May, Rome's roses are in full bloom. The celebrated Comunale Roseto, or Communal Rose Gardens, are open to the public at this time of year. The gardens showcase 1,000 species from around the world. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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A view of Rome featuring the Ponte Sant'Angelo with St. Peter's Basilica in the background.

The world's most wonderful film set

Angels & Demons joins the many films that use Rome as a backdrop

RICHARD CROUSE
for Metro Canada

From Anita Ekberg and Marcello Mastroianni splashing around in the waters of the Trevi Fountain in La Dolce Vita to Audrey Hepburn and Gregory Peck's romantic street tour in Roman Holiday the Eternal City has provided some of the cinema's most unforgettable images.

According to Italian director Federico Fellini, "Rome is the most wonderful movie set in the world." Now with the release of Angels & Demons, shot on location in Rome, a new industry has emerged from the ancient city — movie tourism.

Patrizia Prestipino, head of Rome's provincial department of tourism told the New York Times that "a film like this could relaunch American tourism. For us it's like free advertising." And it's marketing that seems to be working. Tour groups like the Angels & Demons Path of Illumination Tour, angelsand demons.it, Sienna Reid's

Read more on page 22 »

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Travel in brief

VOLUNTOURISM Work camps offered by a non-profit Canadian development organization are highlighted in the new book The 100 Best Volunteer Vacations to Enrich Your Life, published by National Geographic. The Canadian Alliance for Development Initiatives and Projects, based in Vancouver, promotes projects that range from building hiking trails in Iceland to cleaning walls in the Old City of Jerusalem. For more information on the organization's projects around the world, visit cadip.org. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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Scientists' group gives advice on green travel

A scientists' group has put together a guide to green travel to help you determine which modes of transportation have the smallest carbon footprint, and the group, the Union of Concerned Scientists, says some of the greenest choices can also save money.

UCS researchers compared the amount of carbon dioxide — the chief heat-trapping gas that drives global warming — from driving, flying, travelling by train or bus, and also compared per-person emissions for solo travellers versus those travelling in pairs or as a family of four.

Here are some of their findings:

• For trips of more than 800 kilometres, if you're travelling solo or with one other person, it's greener to fly direct in coach than to drive, according to the UCS.

• First-class seating takes up more space than coach seating, so the average first-class passenger on a domestic flight is responsible for generating twice as much carbon as someone seated in coach, UCS says. Budget airlines with no first-class seats can lower a plane's per-person emissions 10 to 15 per cent.

• Compared with flying coach, a couple travelling on a bus will cut their trip's carbon dioxide emissions 55 to 75 per cent, depending on the distance travelled.

Compared to even a fuel-efficient hybrid car, a bus trip would cut a couple's trip emissions nearly in half. Bus travel is usually less expensive than flying and for a solo traveller, can be cheaper than driving.

• Trains emit 60 per cent less carbon per passenger-mile than a typical car with a single occupant. And compared with an 800-kilometre trip on a small jet plane, a train emits roughly 30 per cent less carbon. Trains also can save money by dropping you in city centres, so you don't need to get a taxi or rental car to get into town.

• The type of car you use for a road trip makes a big difference. An SUV emits nearly four times the amount of carbon dioxide emissions of a highly efficient hybrid such as a Toyota Prius and uses nearly four times the amount of gas.

• Travelling off-peak can also lower your carbon footprint and travel bills. Spending less time in traffic means better mileage and lower fuel bills; flying off-peak means your plane won't be wasting fuel in a holding pattern and your ticket could be cheaper.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

More information

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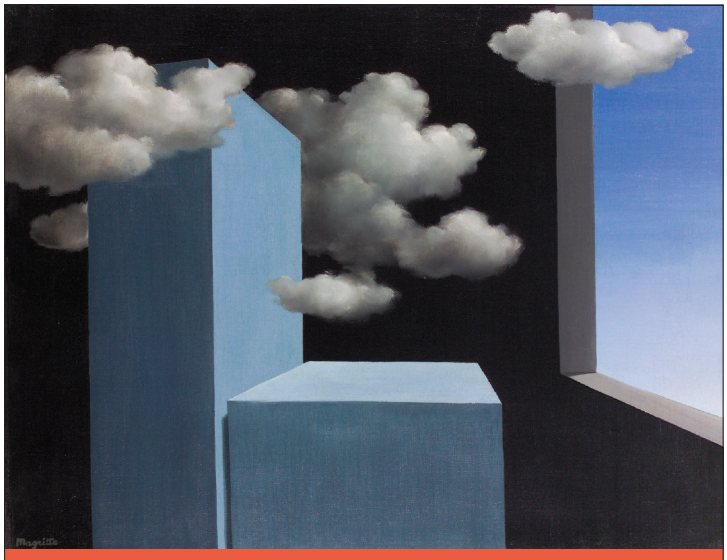

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René Magritte, *The Tempest*, 1931, oil on canvas. Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Hartford, CT. Bequest of Kay Sage Tanguy. © René Magritte / SODRAC (2009)

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Suffering from scenic overload

RoadWarrior

Michael Jackson

I had one last route I had to ride before I left Tennessee. Highway 129, which crosses from that state into North Carolina, is aptly named the Tail of the Dragon: The road has no fewer than 318 turns over a 13-mile stretch.

It's a well-known bike road; at its start, I found about 30 other riders, who had arrived from all over the country to try the route. It's a tricky road, with very tight switchbacks and steep drop-offs throughout. Upsets do happen — at the end of the road is the so-called "tree of shame" which has broken body panels of crashed motorcycles nailed to it.

Leaving Tennessee wasn't easy. I loved the state and will certainly be back again. I'd highly recommend it to anyone who likes scenic, twisty rides.

I crossed the Mississippi and arrived in Little Rock, Ark., tired but excited to explore a new state. After a good night's sleep, I rode north to Eureka Springs in the Ozarks. The routes were very similar to Tennessee, consisting of hills and valleys. I was actually starting to suffer from scenic overload — everywhere I looked there was beautiful countryside. I would never had thought Arkansas would be so beautiful. I stayed in Eureka Springs, a small town with winding streets filled with wonderful old Victorian buildings. Legend has it that First Nations peoples believed the local water could cure people of various ailments. I drank as much of it as possible, hoping it would cure my sore back.

A storm moved in the next day, bringing with it heavy rain, high winds, thunder and lightning. I decided to extend my stay for another night to avoid getting caught out in the open.

But I'm starting to get into this trip. I'm enjoying the ride and have met lots of people along the way. I now realize its hard to be lonely in a country of 300 million souls.

Michael Jackson is embarking on a six-week motorcycle trip around North America. Track his progress at adventuremotorcycleroutes.ca.

MICHAEL JACKSON/FOR METRO CANADA

Eureka Springs, Ark., is a small town in the Ozarks.

Road trip

• Metro columnist Michael Jackson has embarked on the trip of a lifetime. On May 1, he headed out for a six-week solo motorcycle trip across the U.S. and Canada — but to make things even more interesting, he plans to have something of a mobile office, managing his small business, a printing company, remotely while he's on the road. But will Michael really be able to put work aside at those times when he's trying to enjoy his trip? Will his bike break down, wreaking havoc on his itinerary and budget? And will he go stir crazy travelling by himself for so long? Follow his adventures every Wednesday in Metro to find out.

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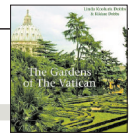
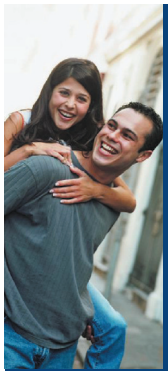
TERMS & CONDITIONS: Departing YYZ. **PACKAGE**: Price valid for **Jun. 2–7 and Aug. 25–Sep. 27, 2009** departures. Also available at higher rates **Jun. 16–Aug. 23, 2009**. Minimum stay 2 nights, maximum stay 7 nights; extra nights are at passenger expense. All nights must be in hotels booked through Icelandair Holidays. Packages are non refundable. Changes subject to $400 penalty 30–60 days prior to departure; non-changeable 29 days or less prior to departure. All fees are per person. Personal travel insurance not included. Other restrictions apply. Seats are limited. **AIRFARES**: Valid for outbound travel **Jun. 9–30, 2009**. Slightly higher fares are available for May, July and August travel. Valid for new purchases only, are determined by departure date, and are based on round-trip purchase per person. No advance purchase; must be ticketed within 48 hours; some destinations require an overnight stay in REK in one or both directions at passenger's expense. Saturday night min. stay; 30 days max. stay. Additional fares may be available on www.icelandair.ca. **Last Ticket Date: May 22, 2009**. Tickets are non-refundable; change fee of $275 pp within validity of fare. Other restrictions apply. Seats are limited. *Prices quoted are exclusive of applicable taxes and official charges by destination of approx. $100-190 per person as well as fuel surcharge of $83 each way to REK and $138 each way to all other destinations.



Garden tour

In an Angels & Demons mood but can't make it to Rome? Check out The Gardens of the Vatican (McArthur & Co.) by Linda Kooluris Dobbs and Kildare Dobbs, $25.17 at amazon.ca. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**



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THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ron Howard, director of Angels & Demons, frames photographers during a Rome photo call for the film's launch.

Immortalizing the Eternal City on film

>> Continued from page 19

Angels and Demons Tour, italyhotline.com, and the Rome Angels and Demons Half-Day Tour, viatour.com, have been enjoying brisk business with packages that range from $75 per person to $550 for a personal excursion.

If you're not a tour group kind of person you can arrange your own expedition of Rome's Angels and Demons locations and other cinematic sites with a good map from your hotel's concierge.

(Take note that several of the places mentioned in the book are not geographically accurate. It's best to do some internet research before hitting the streets.) Here are some good starting points:

Castel Sant'Angelo

Built between 135 and 139 by the Roman Emperor Hadrian Castel Sant' Angelo not only figures in the climax of Angels & Demons, but also has a spectacular panoramic view of Rome. The castle can also be seen in Roman Holiday's barge scene.

Santa Maria della Vittoria

Santa Maria Della Vittoria is the setting for Angels & Demons' most gruesome and exciting scene — the "fire" killing — but in reality is the home to the beautiful Bernini sculpture of the ecstasy of St. Theresa.

Fontana dei Quattro Fiumi

Located at the center of Piazza Navona the ornate The Fontana dei Quattro Fiumi ("Fountain of the Four Rivers") is one of Bernini's most famous works and the backdrop for the film's "water" assassination. Other Rome movie must-sees include:

Mouth of Truth

The Mouth of Truth located in the portico of the church of Santa Maria in Cosmedin.

The carved, grinning stone face which purportedly bites off the hands of liars most famously appeared in Roman Holiday but can also be seen in Only You starring Robert Downey Jr.

Trevi Fountain

At almost 26 metres high the Trevi Fountain is the largest Baroque fount in Rome and the inspiration for the 1954 hit song and movie Three Coins in the Fountain.

Every day tourists throw almost 3,300 euros into the fountain — legend says that visitors who toss a coin into the fountain are guaranteed a return to Rome — money that is donated to charity.

Movie lovers will find much to see in Rome and many memories to take home.

As Audrey Hepburn said in Roman Holiday, "I will cherish my visit here in memory for as long as I live."

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New site to inspire State-side exploration

For those looking for vacations that are cheaper and closer to home, discoveramerica.com, an online U.S. travel guide covering all 50 states, has been launched. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

10 European freebies

If you're taking advantage of the relatively strong dollar this year by heading to Europe, you'll be looking for ways to save even more when you get there.

Here is a list of 10 free and fun things to do in Europe, compiled by the European Travel Commission:

Madrid

• The Palace of Liria, 18th century residence of the Duchess of Alba at Calle Princesa 20, offers a collection of Spanish art, along with Flemish, German, Dutch, Italian, English and French paintings, with guided tours Fridays at 10 a.m., 11 a.m. and noon.

Rome

• The picturesque Trastevere area on the Tiber's west bank, a charming and colourful neighbourhood, hosts a festival the European Travel Commission describes as "Fellini-esque" for eight days in the second half of July, the Festa di Noantri, with a religious procession, food and entertainment.

Leipzig, Germany

• Porsche gives free factory tours where you can see cars like the Cayenne and the new Panamera assembled on antiseptically clean floors. The tour includes a museum with exhibits covering Porsche history. If you feel like upgrading your free tour, various packages for purchase include lunch and even driving experiences on a track. Details at porsche-leipzig.de.

Paris

• The Friday Night Fever (pari-roller.com) is a mass group tour by inline skaters of the city at night. Meeting point is Place Raoul Dautry in the 14th Arrondissement, between the Montparnasse office tower and the Paris-Montparnasse train station, at 10 p.m. The route varies every week but always covers roughly 30 kilometres and returns to the starting point at 1 a.m.

Oslo

• Visit a sculpture park in Oslo with more than 200 works by Norway's most famous sculptor, Gustav Vigeland. The figures depict people in all stages of life and various emotions; details at vigeland.museum.no.

Lisbon

• The Gulbenkian Museum houses a magnificent collection of Egyptian, Greek, Roman, Islamic, Asian and European art. Exhibits include Japanese prints, Persian tapestries and European paintings from Rembrandt to Rubens to Renoir.

Walking tours

• Sandeman's New Europe tour company is offering walking tours of nine European cities — including Paris, Madrid, London and Berlin — free of charge except for optional tipping. The latest addition to the list is a three-hour tour of Prague. Details at sandemans-new.com.

Zurich

• Zurich is known as an expensive city, but a visit to the Church of Our Lady (Fraumünster) is free and the 13th century building includes two modern art treasures: A large stained-glass window done by the artist Alberto Giacometti in the 1940s, along with five stained glass windows designed by Marc Chagall in 1970.

Vilnius, Lithuania

• A monument to Frank Zappa, creator of the 1960s band the Mothers of Invention, can be found in Vilnius. Zappa is of Lithuanian descent, and the monument is located in an area known as Uzupis, known for its countercultural leanings, cafés, galleries and other artists' hangouts.

Amsterdam

• In Amsterdam, at the Wooden Shoe Factory, you can watch typical Dutch wooden shoes being hand-carved and painted while learning the lore behind them, which dates to the 14th century. Details at woodenshoefactory.com.

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Travel May 24, 30 - Jun 8/ts + taxes & fees $297

Airfares

New York City $180
Travel Jun 1 - Jun 8/pd + taxes & fees $116

Jamaica $201
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New York City $539
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Amsterdam Fly, Stay & Rail $649
Hotel Ibis Amsterdam City West + taxes & fees $384
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, first 2 nights 3.5-star central accom and a 5-day rail pass to explore the Netherlands, Belgium & Luxembourg at your own pace. Travel May 20 - May 30/ggv/ts.

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Ibis London Earls Court + taxes & fees $382
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, transfers and 6 nights 3.5-star accom near Earls Court with breakfast daily. Departs Jun 9/vat/ts.

Korea Holidays

KOREA EXPLORE PACKAGE $1249
Provista Hotel + taxes & fees $205
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare and your first 2 nights 3-star central accom in Seoul. Travel Sep 14 - 24/ggv/ke. ADD Korean Folk Village tour from $110. ADD DMZ tour – the last Demilitarized Zone in the world from $92.

Seoul & Jeju Island $1129
President Hotel & Sunshine Hotel taxes & fees included
INCLUDES 4 nights 4-star accom in Seoul at the President Hotel, roundtrip airfare from Seoul to Jeju Island and 5 nights 4-star beachfront accom on Jeju Island at the Sunshine Hotel at Hamdeok Beach. Various departures from Sep - Nov/ggv/ke. ADD Korean Folk Village tour in Seoul from $110. Call Flight Centre for the best deals with Korean Air.

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Hail caesar
The Westin Calgary claims to be the site where a bartender invented the caesar cocktail 40 years ago, so it has created a weekend package to mark the milestone and "savour all that is caesar." THE CANADIAN PRESS

The wide world of garden tours

If you're into horticulture, here's your travel to-do list

EMMA E. FORREST
Metro World News

Green is chic — why not spend your holiday paying homage to the great outdoors with a garden-themed trip?

JAPANESE NATIONAL TOURIST ORGANIZATION

Left, a display at the Waterlily House at London's Kew Gardens. Right, a Zen garden at Japan's Ryoanji Temple.

British Flower Shows

The British are obsessed with their gardens. The highpoints of the British garden lover's year are the RHS flower shows. The most famous of these is the prestigious Chelsea Flower Show at the end of May, where top garden designers compete for the finest show garden and the latest gardening trends are set.

However the insider's choice is the Hampton Court Palace Flower show in July — it's bigger and less crowded. There's an inspiring range of displays from small gardens to front yards, family-friendly planting, extravagant conceptual designs, vegetable patches and how to make your garden sustainable, (rhs.org.uk) If trekking round the shows hasn't satiated your needs for horticultural inspiration, then pay a visit to the famous 250-year-old botanical gardens at Kew, in London. These stunning grounds are home to a palace, themed gardens, a tree top walkway, and impressive plant collections housed in extravagant greenhouses, kew.org.

Bulbs in Benelux

Holland is lifted by a riot of colour when spring arrives and the country's trademark flower — the tulip — starts to bloom. The best place to enjoy these bold flowers is at Keukenhof, the world's largest flower garden where they are laid out in vast multicoloured carpets. Established 60 years ago as an exhibition at which growers from the flower bulb industry could present their latest flowers, it's now a sort of fabulous floral theme park.

Every year seven million flower bulbs in 1,600 different varieties supplied by 93 different exhibitors are planted throughout this 32 hectare estate. You can admire the configurations of different colours and shapes of bulb, and of course buy some to take home afterwards. Until May 21, keukenhof.nl.

Zen gardens of Japan

You might have missed the spring cherry blossom in Tokyo, but there are plenty more opportunities to enjoy the flora of Japan. Far from the fussy, flowery gardens of Europe and the U.S., these gardens found in the grounds of Buddhist temples, historic castles and private homes, are carefully-constructed minimalist havens, with gravel paths, sparse planting, artfully-placed rocks, pavilions, bridges, tranquil ponds and relaxing water

Read more on page 25 »

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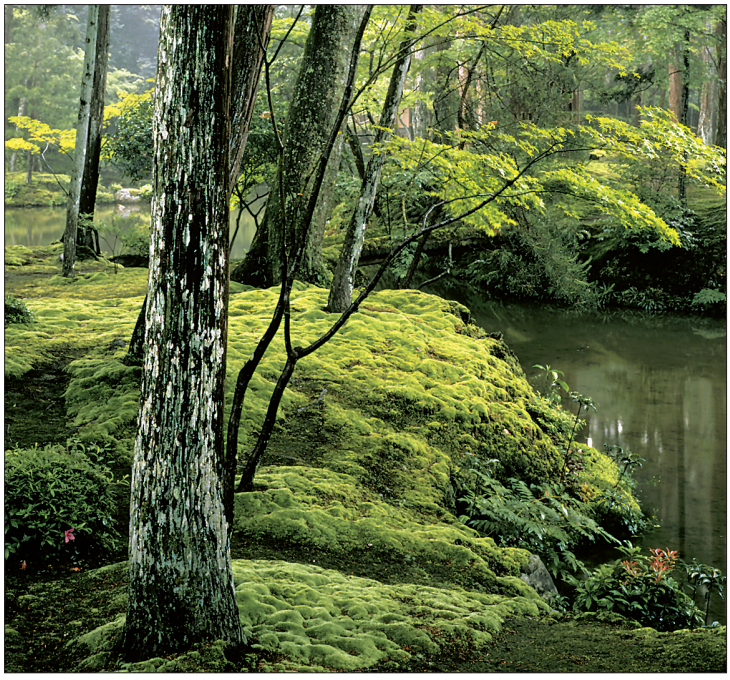
Cruise advice

TravelSmart Newsletter has a two-part series with tips for booking and taking cruises in its May 15 and June 15 issues, available at TravelSmart Newsletter.com. "Rates for cruises are the lowest I've seen since I began publishing TravelSmart," said editor Nancy Dunnan. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



JAPANESE NATIONAL TOURIST ORGANIZATION

Left, a view of the garden at Saiho-ji Temple in Kyoto, Japan. Right, the Palm House at Kew Gardens.

>> Continued from page 24

features. Some gardens are religious, others ceremonial, artistic or designed for strolling through.

Kyoto is awash with splendid examples, including those in the grounds of the city's 13 World Heritage Sites, including the gardens at Nijo Castle Ninomaru, Tenryu-ji Temple, Kiyomizudera Temple, the beautiful moss garden of Saiho-ji Temple, and the rock garden at Kinkaku-ji Temple, where nature is represented by stones and gravel swept into simple patterns with a broom; jnto.go.jp.

Biodiversity in Costa Rica

Flora and fauna fans will be overwhelmed by the diversity that Costa Rica has to offer. This tiny country in Central America country covers only 0.1 per cent of the world's landmass, but is home to five per cent of global biodiversity.

Almost a quarter of the country is made up of national parks, protected by the environmentally-conscious government. These tropical paradises are home to a bounty of more than 100,000 exotic and colourful plant species, alongside thousands of types of animals and birds.

Highlights include the botanical gardens of the Centro Neotropico SarapiquiS Gardens, the Arenal Botanical Gardens, the Elsie Kientzler Botanical Garden, the botanical gardens of CATIE, the aerial tour of the Braulio Carrillo National Park, the La Paz Waterfall Gardens which is full of butterflies and hummingbirds and the Lankester Botanical Gardens in San Jose, home to more than a thousand varieties of orchid; visit costarica.com.

Tropical gardens in Madeira

There's more to this Portuguese island in the middle of the Atlantic than the sweet wine. Madeira is known for its exotic flora and a visit will not disappoint garden fans — the tropical climate and the volcanic soil create perfect conditions for growing all manner of exotic plants from gardenias and freesias to hibiscus, agapanthus, mimosa, bougainvillea and orchids.

All of these flowers are on show in the wealth of well-tended gardens including the Botanical Gardens, the Tropical Gardens of Monte Palace with its collection of cycads, the Garden of Quinta da Boa Vista, with its collection of orchids, as well as private gardens like Quinta Palmeira and Quinta do Palheiro, famous for its camelias.

Another great way to discover the spectacular scenery is to take a walk along the levadas, a series of water channels created to bring water from the highlands to the lower parts of the island; madeiratourism.org.

Money = no object

In June, the $1.4 billion US Mardan Palace will be unveiled in the in the resort city of Antalya, Turkey. The hotel will include more than 9,200 square metres of gold trimming; mardanpalace.com. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Concerts, festivals and tomato fights

With summer vacation quickly approaching, many soon-to-be travellers are weighing their holiday options. While a sun and surf destination may be alluring, consider the following cultural festivals before booking that all-inclusive. Check out this list of cool, quirky festivals taking place around the world this summer.

1. Named best festival by Rolling Stone Magazine, **Bonnaroo** is a four-day, multi-stage camping festival hosted on a 700-acre farm in Manchester, Tennessee. The party gets under way June 11-14th, rain or shine, with dozens of bands, including Al Green, Beastie Boys, Bruce Springsteen, Phish, Public Enemy, Paul Oakenfold and Nine Inch Nails. It costs $224–$249 for a four-day pass that includes camping and parking. bonnaroo.com

2. Head to St. Petersburg for their **White Nights Festival**, a six-week event from May 15-June 18th. During this time, the sun never fully sets and the nights are bright ... a perfect excuse to celebrate. White Nights Festival offers a variety of programs which include dance, jazz, opera and classical music performances. saint-petersburg.com

3. Trying to do NYC on the cheap? Check out **Summer Stage**, a free performing arts festival in Central Park. This 20 year-old festival has everything from spoken word to stand-up comedy, with free big name performances from the Indigo Girls and Ziggy Marley. Tickets are first come, first served and gates open an hour before show times. summerstage.org

4. For something a little unusual, check out the **Kirkpinar Oil Wrestling Festival** (in late June). One of the oldest festivals in the world, this wrestling fest takes place in Edirne, Turkey and involves shirtless macho men grappling while slathered in oil.

5. The last Wednesday of August, at the peak of tomato season, the small Spanish town of Bunol (just outside of Valencia) hosts **La Tomatina**, a giant tomato food fight. The tomatoes are specially-grown for this annual event and a reported 140 tons are trucked in from the countryside. Imagine thousands of tourists covered in salsa and the streets over-flowing with tomato juice.

6. Celebrate the **Summer Solstice** at the ruins of Stonehenge. On June 20, this free, one-night event draws druids, hippie types and peaceful pagan partiers eager to watch the 4:45 a.m. sunrise on the longest day of the year.

"On June 20, this free, one-night event draws druids, hippie types and peaceful pagan partiers eager to watch the 4:45 a.m. sunrise on the longest day of the year."

7. **Summer Fest**, the "world's largest music festival" takes place in Milwaukee June 25 - July 5. Over the 11 days, there are some 700 artists across 11 stages, with a range of performances by: The Roots, Kid Rock and Leonard Skynard, Barenaked Ladies, Bon Jovi, Bob Dylan, Willie Nelson and Whitesnake. summerfest.com

TheTravelJunkie

Julia Dimon

metronews.ca/traveljunkie

Julia Dimon is co-host of Word Travels, airing on OLN; juliadimon.com.

KEVEN DREWS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Stilness Centre at Oyster Bay's Ocean Resort offers guest a dining room, library, sanctuary, fitness room, infrared saunsas and treatment rooms in Oyster Bay, B.C.

Vacation for the world weary

Forget the kayaking package, followed by a full spa treatment the day after bouncing around in a boat on a fishing expedition.

Lots of Vancouver Island resorts offer those seaside amusements, but others are opting for the other end of the spectrum — quiet, meditative, thoughtful.

This is a part of the country with a reputation for embracing organic food and mysticism. These days, some hippy-era retreats of me-centred contemplation have keyed their offerings to a wired world in deep recession.

John Shields, executive director of Haven on Gabriola Island, says that despite the economic downturn, his facility's month-long program for couples in August has already 40 participants registered — just about full capacity.

It's not always that full, he says.

"As (people's) anxiety goes up, their interest in coming to Haven to work with their personal demons really does continue," Shields says.

"As (people's) anxiety goes up, their interest in coming to Haven to work with their personal demons really does continue."
John Shields, executive director of Haven

"I think there might be a direct correlation between tougher economic challenges and people's need to have more resiliency and have more ability to respond to life's challenges."

The retreat's signature month-long self-exploration program is also booking up. The Come Alive program runs 20 times per year and encourages participants to use breathing, relaxation and group-circle techniques.

It is "an opportunity to unblock your energy, discover your resources and realize your full potential," says the Haven's website.

Adds Shields: "It's exhilarating work."

When the Hollyhock retreat was first established on Cortes Island in 1982, the focus was similarly on inner work. But these days, Hollyhock bills itself as offering "learning holidays."

It's more about "bringing what people learn back home and putting it to practical use, rather than just gaining your own personal insight," says Greg Osoba, Hollyhock's marketing director.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

KEVEN DREWS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Oyster Bay's Ocean Resort's dining room.

ANDER GILLENEA/GETTY IMAGES

People are immersed in tomato juice during the Tomatina — a giant tomato fight — in August, 2005 in Bunol, Spain.

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Lewis back for Sex sequel

Jason Lewis is to appear in the Sex and the City: The Movie sequel. The 37-year-old actor — whose character Smith Jerrod dated Samantha Jones — has revealed it is likely he will reprise his role as the hunky model. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Entertainment

Expecting

Maya Rudolph is pregnant. The Saturday Night Live star, 36, is expecting her second child with her partner, director Paul Thomas Anderson. PEOPLE.COM

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

From Star Trek to Terminator

NED EHRBAR
for Metro Canada

This month is a big one for Anton Yelchin — maybe the biggest in his life. With roles in a pair of high-profile summer releases — Star Trek and Terminator Salvation — Yelchin's life has lately become a blur of flashy premieres around the world and press junkets at five-star hotels.

Anton Yelchin stars as navigator Pavel Chekov in the blockbuster hit Star Trek and Kyle Reese in the upcoming film Terminator Salvation.

But he's trying to keep his wits about him. "These are all kind of the superficial elements of these kinds of features," he says, shrugging at the plush Beverly Hills hotel suite he's camped out in. "It's beyond the reason I do what I do."

Yelchin is already enjoying the top spot at the box office with Star Trek, in which he takes over the role of Russian navigator Pavel Chekov — not much of a stretch for the Leningrad-born Russian-American, who came to the U.S. as a toddler with his figure-skating parents after the fall of the Soviet Union.

For Yelchin, who is mostly known for smaller films like Charlie Bartlett and the TV series Huff, working on summer blockbusters is less a job than a chance to fulfill some childhood fantasies. "Suddenly felt like I was five again," he says. "I used to be on this set in my mind in my backyard. It was a weird kind of nostalgia."

But unlike the franchise reboot of Star Trek, his next big summer film has the daunting task of picking up where a less-than-stellar previous installment left off. "I went into this thinking this isn't going to be T3" he says, referring to Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines. "We're going to try and take this more seriously," Yelchin says.

And part of taking it more seriously meant the cast being more involved with the screenplay (by the same writers as T3). "I came to Albuquerque with a set of guidelines and a breakdown of (my character) Kyle Reese, and I wasn't going to change those guidelines to change the script," Yelchin explains. "Every scene needed to be adjusted."

It's no coincidence that Yelchin, just two months past his 20th birthday, has aspirations beyond acting. "I love filmmaking. I really am a movie geek. I'm obsessed with them," he says. He's even working on a screenplay — "a movie about teenagers, but kind of a self-conscious look at teenagers."

And he shouldn't have much trouble moving behind the camera, since he practically grew up in film school. "It's the best free education you could get, just to work on a movie set and work with guys that know so much about what you're doing. You don't need to go to film school when you've had the opportunities that I have."

But with box office returns like he's been seeing, it might be a while before Yelchin gets a spare moment to get behind the camera.

Movie profile

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In brief

PEOPLE Eminem and Jimmy Kimmel will fly about 200 laid-off autoworkers to Los Angeles for Friday's taping of the rapper's appearance on Kimmel's show. Eminem and Kimmel want to remind everyone that real people are being affected by what's going on in Detroit.

PEOPLE Donald Trump says Miss California USA, Carrie Prejean, who caused a stir expressing opposition to gay marriage and posing in risque photographs, can retain her crown.

ART Silence of the Lambs actor Anthony Hopkins is bringing his paintings and drawings to Canada. The Oscar-winning performer makes his Canadian debut as an artist May 26 at the Harbour Gallery in Mississauga. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kenya's Style

Kenya Hunt

Read Kenya's blog at metronews.ca/globalstyle

For complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and tickets, visit: **metronews.ca/movies**

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My friends thought I was pregnant

"Whenever I was invited out I would worry for days about what to wear. I did not want anyone to notice my bloated stomach and the noises it made. I was becoming fixated on the problem and it got much worse when a friend asked if I was pregnant!"

Craving sweets

"I did notice that sweets and other things like biscuits, cakes and potatoes made the problem worse. I really made me feel tired, moody but still craving more sweets.

My best friend told me that I could have an imbalance in my intestinal flora and that she had read about a product called dida™ that could help against bloating. So I consulted my health food store and bought a package of dida the next day."

I tried dida

"Initially, I still had the bloating trouble, but after about 3 weeks it was gone! No more flatulence – no more bloating! What a joy to be back to normal and not have to worry about hiding my inflated stomach. I also feel better and more energetic – as if an inner strength is back."

WHY IS DIDA SO POPULAR?

Candida fungi can overgrow if you eat a poor diet (refined sugars especially), if you have used antibiotics or birth control pills, or if your immune system is weak (malnutrition, overtraining, bad health in general).

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Queer-centric films

Inside Out Toronto Fest now in its 19th year

CHRIS ALEXANDER
for Metro Canada

As the 1920s became the 1930s, and the production code began crushing Hollywood with its moral watchdog, North American cinema began getting a filtered perception of what it was to be gay.

Homosexuality was either demonized, marginalized or ignored altogether and it has taken the tireless, upward climbing of generations to change that perception.

Which makes the very existence of the ever-evolving Inside Out Toronto LGBT Film and Video Festival (running from May 14 to 24) a cause for celebration.

Now in its 19th year, the massively influential festival (the third largest of its kind in the world, in fact) assembles queer-centric cinema from every country, every perspective and every genre.

And as director of programming Jason St. Laurent believes, Inside Out is much, much more than just another niche film exhibition.

"There's a potent social significance to the fest," says St. Laurent. "Liberation movements evolve the world over and it's a good situation for us because film usually precedes and stokes these movements. It honestly feels like we're partially responsible for the rise of many of them, internationally.

"And perhaps tellingly, we're still seeing a lack of films coming from Africa, which is worrisome."

This year, along with a addendum to its name (the newly included B and T stand for bisexual and transgender), Inside Out also casts a spotlight on films coming out of France (including New Wave, starring iconic actress Beatrice Dalle and a resurrection of Oscar winning '50s kid flick The Red Balloon) and boasts more than 100 filmmakers from around the globe set to attend and introduce their respective works.

But as St. Laurent admits, the wild, post-screening soirees are almost as much of a draw as the movies themselves.

"There are no VIP areas for filmmakers or celebrities at our parties," he says.

"Filmmkers, writers and actors freely mingle with industry pros and invited guests and it's a great dynamic. In fact, believe it or not, some people forgo the films and just buy tickets to the parties. It's wild."

Ticket info

- For complete Inside Out Toronto LGBT Film and Video Festival screening, party and ticket information go to insideout.on.ca

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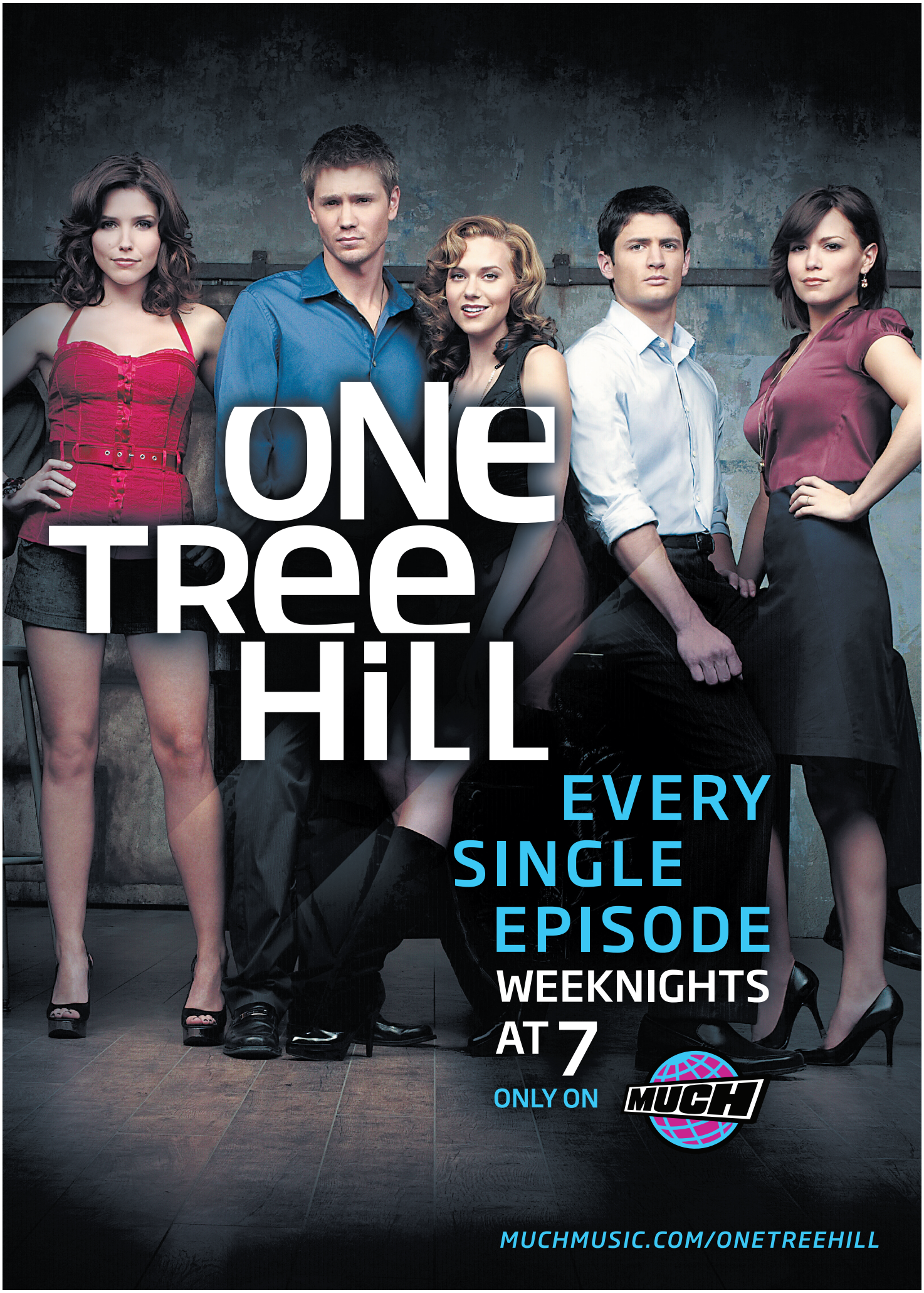
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Common set for A-Team

Common is set to play B. A. Barracus in The A-Team remake. The rapper and actor is now the hot favourite to take on Mr. T's iconic role. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

The best/worst of Cannes

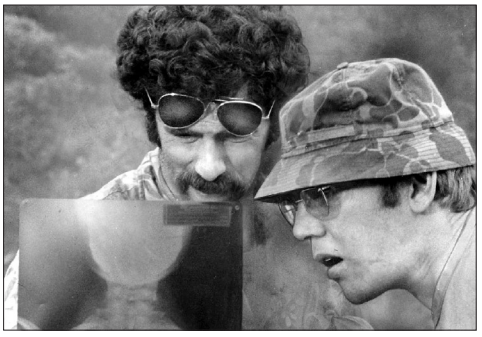
PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

As May chugs along to the mid-way point, the eyes of movie-lovers across the globe must cast their gaze towards some sunny beaches in France.

Though some people might think the Cannes Film Festival exists only to give Hollywood's finest a chance to show off their most expensive clothing on the red carpet, that's actually not the case. Every year the finest (and less-than-finest) filmmakers throughout the world submit their movies to Cannes, vying for a shot at international cinematic glory.

The festival has been a launching ground for new talent for decades, and perhaps the next great filmmaker is waiting to be discovered during the festival's two weeks of screenings. Or, maybe this year will be dominated by gigantic failures that will irritate the rabid critics.

Lord knows the festival has been filled with both winners and stinkers over the years, which is why we thought we'd take this opportunity to look at some of the sweetest discoveries and biggest disappointments of the Cannes Film Festival's 63-year reign.



A scene from MASH, with Elliott Gould and Donald Sutherland.

THE WINNERS

Roberto Rossellini's Rome, Open City kicked off the Italian neo-realism movement and won the first Palm d'Or at Cannes in 1946. The win immediately associated the festival with the budding art film community and throughout the '50s and '60s, virtually all of the important international films premiered there.

Ingmar Bergman, Federico Fellini, Michelangelo Antonioni, François Truffaut, Satyajit Ray and others launched their careers on the sunny beaches of Cannes during this period.

In 1970, Robert Altman transformed himself from a weathered TV director into one of the great American filmmakers when MASH screened, announcing a new wave of American cinema that cleaned up at the festival for the next decade.

Even Quentin Tarantino's transition from chatterbox video clerk to movie icon tied into Cannes when Pulp Fiction took the Palm d'Or in 1994.

THE STINKERS

Of course, it hasn't all been roses at Cannes. Most of the historic Cannes disasters have thankfully been long forgotten. So let's focus on a few rough patches from recent years — like the instantly forgotten Americanization of Godzilla that closed the film festival in 1998 to half-empty theatres and a chorus of boos.

Donnie Darko director Richard Kelly saw his career screech to a sudden halt after his sophomore effort, Southland Tales, was slaughtered by critics in 2006.

In recent years, many forgettable Hollywood films like Shrek 2 and X-Men 3 have premiered at Cannes hoping to benefit from the publicity, only to see the festival merely be the first round of a critical mauling.

Opening day

- The Cannes Film Festival opens today and runs through May 24.

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primetime 5/13/09	265	353	2	TVO	Lemur Street	Lemur Street	The Agenda With Steve Paikin		New Tricks		Hansel Mieth: Vagabond		Agenda-Paikin
	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	Lie to Me "Sacrifice" (N)		Bones (N)		(10:02) The Unusuals		News
	215	343	4	OMN1	2Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere II	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6	CBC	NHL Hockey: Eastern Conference Semifinal Game 7 -- Penguins at Capitals						CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Friends	Friends	Friends	Less-Kind	Murdoch Mysteries (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
	212	313	8	CTV	etalk	Hollywood	Criminal Minds (N)		American Idol		CSI: NY (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
	218	345	11	E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	Engagement	Better Off Ted	Janice Dickinson Modeling		Running in Heels (N)		News (N)
	137	763	13	TFO	Panorama		Destination Nor'Ouest (SC)		*Transe* (2006, Drame) Ana Moreira, Viktor Rakov.				Virus & Hyde
	-	-	14	-	Raymond	Raymond	News (N)		News (N)		Two/Half Men	King	Cold Case
	213	326	15	SUN	Scrubs	George Lopez	*12 Hours to Live* (2006, Suspense) Ione Skye.				To Serve and Protect		Becker
	-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	Engagement	Old Christine	Criminal Minds (N)		CSI: NY (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
	-	385	17	NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order "Exchange"		News (N)
	-	386	18	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Lost (HDTV) (N)		Lost "The Incident" (HDTV) (Season Finale) (N)				News (N)
	219	346	20	ACH-B	Instant Star	TMZ (N)	America's Next Top Model (N)		Lost "The Incident" (HDTV) (Season Finale) (N)				News (N)
	-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy (N)	Two/Half Men	Lie to Me "Sacrifice" (N)		American Idol		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61	PBS	News-Lehrer	Mulberry	World War II: Behind Closed Doors: Stalin, the Nazis and the West "Unlikely Friends"						Business Rpt.
	297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	America's Next Top Model (N)		90210 "Zero Tolerance"		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331	SBK	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dr. Phil (HDTV) (N)		WBZ News (N)	What's-Store	Frasier	Frasier	Punk'd
	298	653	332	TLA	Jamie Foxx	Wayans Bros.	My Wife-Kids	According-Jim	Friends	KTLA News	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Next Model
news	502	390	26	NW	CBC News	Newman	The Hour		CBC News: The National		CBC News: The National		National
	500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown: No Bias		Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	509	504	79	CNB	Kudlow Report		CNBC Reports (HDTV)		American Greed		On the Money		Mad Money
sports	405	417	22	net	MLB Baseball New York Yankees at Toronto Blue Jays. From Rogers Centre in Toronto.						Sportsnet Connected		Hockey Central
	400	400	30	TSN	That's Hockey	Interruption	NBA Basketball: Eastern Conference Semifinal Game 5 -- Hawks at Cavaliers					SportsCentre	
	411	457	58	OLN	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Departures "Jordan"		Mantracker	Mantracker	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Departures
	417	406	81	SC	Pimp My Ride	Pass Time	Countdown to All-Star (HDTV) (N)				NASCAR	NASCAR	Pimp My Ride
family	551	542	25	YTV	In Real Life (N)		Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	Karaoke Star Junior		Falcon Beach		Mystery Hnt.
	554	544	45	TEL	Totally Spies	Total Drama	6TEEN "2-4-1"	6TEEN	Futurama	American Dad	Robot Chicken	Father of Pride	Moral Orel
	556	540	51	FAM	Wizards-Place	Han. Montana	Zack & Cody	Latest Buzz	Wizards-Place	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
cable variety	602	567	27	W	Will & Grace	Friends	Grocery	Grocery	Supersize vs. Superskinny		Stuck (N)	Maxed Out	Maxed Out
	570	580	29	MM	One Tree Hill		disBand	disBand	Video on Trial	Video on Trial	Instant Star	Instant Star	One Tree Hill
	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Dog the Bounty Hunter		Bounty Hunter	Exterminators	Exterminators
	700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	Elisa di Rivombosa		Elisa di Rivombosa		Raymond	Raymond	George Lopez
	571	581	36	MMM	The Daily Fix		Ranked!		Gimme Sugar	Gimme Sugar	Entourage	Gene Simmons	The Daily Fix
	575	583	38	CMT	Living, Dream	Tara Diaries	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Totally
	616	521	39	SHO	The Outer Limits		Cashing In	About a Girl	G-Spot	Cock'd Gunns	The Starter Wife (HDTV)		House
	620	523	40	BVO	The Achievers	Bravo!Videos	Arts & Minds	O'Reagan File	Wingfield	Wingfield	Southland		Law & Order
	601	562	41	SLC	Skin Deep	Til Debt-Part	End of Leash	End of Leash	End of Leash	End of Leash	End of Leash	End of Leash	ET Canada
	522	506	43	HIS	NCIS "Identity Crisis"		Outlaw Bikers		Ice Road Truckers		NCIS "Identity Crisis"		Marine Mach.
	625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Jon Dore Show	Demetri Martin	Daily Show
	600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Big City Broker	The Stagers	Unsellable	Hid Potential	House Hunters	House Hunters	Holmes-Homes
	294	529	47	TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	*Paycheck* ★★ (2003, Science Fiction) Ben Affleck, Aaron Eckhart.					Seinfeld	Family Guy
	576	582	49	BET	106 & Park	*Love for Sale* (2006, Drama) Hermila Guedes. Premiere.					The Game	The Game	*Half Baked* ★
	627	528	50	SPC	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Star Trek: Voyager		Primeval (N)		Stormworld (N)	Grand Star	Stargate SG-1
	581	566	52	MTV	Room Raiders	After	Canada's Next Top Model		Nitro Circus	Nitro Circus	Real World-Road Rules		MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	Vanity Insanity	Ad Persuasion	Ad Persuasion	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Raymond	Family Guy	Married... With	Seinfeld
	603	561	56	FOOD	Chef at Home	Fresh-Anna	Diner, Drive-In	Diner, Drive-In	Iron Chef America		Ultimate Recipe Showdown		Opening Soon
	261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		Keeping Up	Foot in Grave	All About George (N)		Driven-Vision	Supernatural	Poltergeist
	621	527	63	STR	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		TMZ (N)	etalk	100 Sexiest Stars		The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		TMZ
	553	546	65	TRE	Backyardigans	Nght Grdn	Max & Ruby	Franklin	Little Bear	Bucket-Dinos	Comfy Couch	Big & Small	Max & Ruby
	115	711	101	TVA	Poule-oeufs or	Marché	Collection "Make-Over" (SC)		Nos étés (HDTV)		TVA 22 heures	(10:45) Denis Lévesque	
	126	730	102	RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	526	507	249	VIVA	Judging Amy		Medium "Lucky in Love"		Medium "Knowing Her"		Mediums	Psychic Det.	Mediums
	300	601	301	M1	(6:40) *Touch & Go* ★★ (2003)			Tracey Ullman	*Speed Racer* ★★ (2008, Action) Emile Hirsch, Christina Ricci.				
	305	612	306	PIX	*Lethal Weap. 3*	*Time of the Wolf* (2002, Drama)			*Hollow Man* ★★ (2000, Science Fiction) Kevin Bacon.				*Jericho Mans.*

critics' corner

Corner Gas

Face it; he's boring in any medium. Hank's (Fred Ewanuick) rambling on about nothing is driving Brent (Brent Butt) crazy, so he suggests Hank start a blog. But that doesn't help, as he still has to read the thing. Depressed over a friend's success, Lacey (Gabrielle Miller) tries to prove she's good for something by taking on Oscar (Eric Peterson) in a game of horseshoes. Janet Wright also stars in "Blog River." 11:30 AM on COM

Touch & Go

Jeff Douglas, aka Joe in that famous "I Am Canadian" beer ad, stars in this 2003 comedy set in Halifax. He plays Darcy, a lovable slacker who works as a tour guide. When his best friend's girl (Patricia Zentilli) gets a job in Minneapolis and plans to take his buddy (Stephen Starkey) along, he's forced to start growing up and thinking about what — and whom — he wants out of life. That's a young Ellen Page ("Juno") as Darcy's skater pal. 6:40 PM on M1

Rodman's irresponsible behaviour

Although expected to be a rehab outpatient by now, Dennis Rodman's erratic behaviour continues. For the second time in a week, Rodman and his entourage tried to walk out on a restaurant bill topping $1,000, according to Page Six. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Oprah praises private jets, big homes to grads

PRACTICAL ADVICE Oprah Winfrey stopped by Duke University to give a commencement speech.

To inspire the new college graduates, the talk-show queen extolled the joys of wealth, according to Gawker. "It's great to have a nice home. It's great to have nice homes! It's great to have a nice home that just escaped the fire in Santa Barbara," she told the students.

"It's great to have a private jet. Anyone that tells you that having your own private jet isn't great is lying to you." METRO WORLD NEWS

Jennifer's lessons from past loves

THE REALIST Jennifer Aniston is learning some lessons from her very public past love life.

In the new issue of Cosmopolitan U.K., the actress opens up about what she's taken away from her experiences.

"I don't think a perfect relationship exists," she says. "But I do think that many of us think it does and we're just fooling ourselves.

"Whoever said that everything has to be forever? That's unrealistic or hoping for too much. I don't think it's worth all that pressure." METRO WORLD NEWS

Kate lashes out at gossipers

DAMAGE CONTROL Kate Gosselin, mother of eight and star of the hit reality show Jon & Kate Plus 8, is fighting back at reports that she has been having a more-than-platonic relationship with Steve Neild, a bodyguard who frequently travels with her and her family, people.com reports.

Two weeks after stories linked her husband, Jon Gosselin, with a 23-year-old schoolteacher, Gosselin says she is now the target of tabloid lies.

"The next story coming out from the animals that stalk us is about our security person and his family," Kate tells People. "Already the allegations they're making about me are disgusting, unthinkable, unfathomable, and I am horrified.

"These are people who absolutely love us and want to see us through to the end," Gosselin says of Neild and his family.

"Of course, both of them travel with us at times, and we've spent holidays together, because, in this situation, your circle grows smaller and smaller, and it's very natural to become friends with your manager, your publicist, your security team ... they're the only people you have left. And now they're coming under fire." METRO NEWS SERVICES

Jessica can't Remember That

OOPS Jessica Simpson had another déjà vu moment, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The website says the singer was left lost for words again onstage in California on Friday night when she forgot the lyrics to her song Remember That.

The pop star famously flubbed her Dolly Parton tribute song during a 2006 performance at the Kennedy Centre Honours in Washington, D.C. — and then forgot the words to the same song two other times this year.

She tried to play down the gaffe with humour, telling the California audience, "I always forget this," adding "I didn't write it." The singer then joked, "It just comes with the whole Jessica Simpson thing." METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES

MJ sued for breaking contract?

DOUBLE TIMING Concert promoters are battling to block Michael Jackson's series of live concerts in London this summer — accusing the star of breaking an earlier agreement to make his comeback with them — femalefirst.co.uk is alleging.

The pop superstar is currently preparing to take to the stage in London for his first gigs since 2001 — a run of 50 dates at the city's O2 Arena, starting in July — but bosses at AllGood Entertainment are seeking to block the shows, saying they entered an agreement with Jackson's manager, Frank Dileo, in 2008, promising the star would appear with his sister Janet Jackson and their brothers on tour.

Jackson was allegedly prohibited from making another concert deal for 18 months as part of the contract, but he violated the blackout clause when he signed up for the London concert series.

The website alleges the promoters have sent a cease and desist letter to the Jackson's London concert organizers. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sam to pay up for Britney's legal costs?

SALT IN WOUNDS Sam Lutfi faced off against singer Britney Spears' legal team and lost, slapped with a three-year restraining order last month — and his wallet may be taking a hit next, people.com reports.

Spears' lawyers asked a Los Angeles court last Friday to order Lutfi, who once was her manager, to pay $123,142 US to cover Spears' legal fees for the courtroom battle over the restraining order.

In addition, her lawyers are seeking $129,922 from Jon Eardley, an attorney who has challenged Jamie Spears' control over his daughter, and $72,292 from her ex-boyfriend Adnan Ghalib. Both Eardley and Ghalib were also ordered to stay away from the pop star.

A judge has yet to sign off on the request, people.com reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Brooke speaks out

HER SIDE Brooke Shields is finally getting out her side of the alleged Kiefer Sutherland head-butting story from last week.

"While at the party, she was bumped into by Jack McCollough and Kiefer Sutherland became concerned," Shields' rep said in a statement, according to Hollyscoop.

"Kiefer has always been a gentleman in her company. Both Jack and Kiefer are friends of Ms. Shields and she regrets this unfortunate situation."

Sutherland turned himself in to New York police last Thursday after the incident, and was charged with assault. METRO WORLD NEWS

Biel and the Mother Lovers

SUPPORTIVE GIRLFRIEND Jessica Biel says she was as shocked as everyone else to see her boyfriend Justin Timberlake's raunchy new video Mother Lover with Andy Samberg on Saturday Night Live this past weekend, usmagazine.com reports.

The video showed the two leaving prison.

They realize they've forgotten Mother's Day, but no worries — they have a plan. "I'm a mother lover, you're a mother lover," they rap, suggesting they sleep with each other's mothers.

"I thought it was amazing," Biel told MTV News. "I mean, it was so wrong, it's right. Just so wrong, it had to be right." METRO NEWS SERVICES

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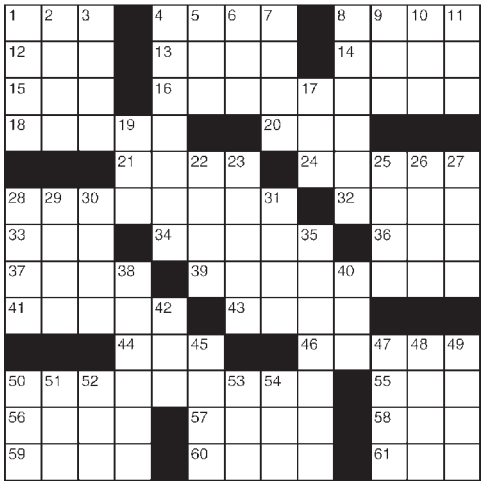

Crossword across

1 Bill
4 Garden intruder
8 Cougar
12 Exist
13 Bullets and such
14 Unyielding
15 Meadow
16 Country quaintness
18 Yuletide rendition
20 A billion years
21 Conks on the noggin
24 Halos
28 Poison level
32 Witty one
33 Mess up
34 Gold measure
36 Cowboy's sweetie
37 Bound
39 Keri Russell series
41 Trustworthy
43 Shed tears
44 Shelter
46 In a stunned state
50 Means of betrayal
55 "— Got a Secret"
56 Needle case
57 Sharpen
58 Fresh
59 Flex
60 On the — (unfriend-ly)
61 See 43-Across

Crossword down

1 Body powder
2 Vicinity
3 Tolerate
4 Spelling whiz?
5 Ostrich's kin
6 Ambulance abbr.
7 Love not wisely but too well
8 Park outing
9 Spoon-bender Geller
10 Witticism
11 Whatever amount
17 Charged bit
19 Kimono closer
22 Chanteuse Edith
23 Scatter about
25 Creche trio
26 Unruly kid
27 Without doing anything
28 Reveal
29 Sandwich treat
30 Picture of health?
31 Eli's campus
35 1960s T-shirt patterns
38 Wan
40 Bookkeeper (Abbr.)
42 Mainlander's memento
45 Vocal comeback
47 Galvanizing matter
48 Eternally
49 Moist, in the morning
50 Society newbie
51 Multipurpose truck
52 Bit of wordplay
53 Debtor's letters
54 Stick with a kick

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

					5		8	4
4	1							
					1	6		5
8	5			7	6		4	
	6						1	
	7		2	9			3	6
7		6	9					
							6	9
3	9		8					

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

5	9	2	1	3	4	6	7	8
4	6	8	7	2	9	1	5	3
7	3	1	6	8	5	9	2	4
8	5	3	9	1	2	4	6	7
1	7	6	4	5	8	3	9	2
9	2	4	3	6	7	5	8	1
6	1	5	2	7	3	8	4	9
2	8	9	5	4	1	7	3	6
3	4	7	8	9	6	2	1	5

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min.....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day

Italian Spirals with Burst Tomatoes

INGREDIENTS:
1 lb (450 g) thin Italian sausage (salsiccia)
2 tbsp (25 ml) olive oil
2 cloves garlic
1 tsp (5 ml) dried oregano
1/2 tsp (2 ml) dried chili flakes
1 1/2 lb (680 g) cherry tomatoes
Salt and black pepper

GARNISH:
Fresh basil leaves

METHOD:
1. Preheat broiler to high. Cut sausage into quarters and wind lengths into coils. Pass thin metal skewer horizontally through each coil, then arrange all four on rack of grill pan.
2. Heat oil in large frying pan. Peel garlic and crush into oil. Then add oregano and chili flakes and fry gently 30 seconds, without allowing crushed garlic to change colour.
3. Spread tomatoes on top of garlic and chili, cover and cook over low heat 10–12 minutes, or until most tomatoes have burst and are half-submerged in juices.
4. Broil sausage coils 5–6 minutes per side, turning about to ensure even browning.
5. Uncover tomatoes, raise heat to moderate and cook 5 minutes, or until juices have thickened. Press lightly with back of spoon to ensure that all tomatoes have burst.
6. Season tomato sauce to taste with salt and pepper, then pour onto four warmed serving plates and put sausage coils in centres. Rinse and dry basil leaves, strip from stems, and scatter over top.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

sallybrompton.com

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
A mistake you made earlier in the year will return to embarrass you today but it's really no big deal so don't get worked up about it.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Try not to get so caught up in your own problems today that you miss the chance to help a friend or family member sort out their own little difficulty.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
If your work load is getting too much for you, and if friends and colleagues keep piling more tasks on you, then it's about time you called a halt.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
You may be ultra enthusiastic about a new plan or project but you need to be realistic about how it is going to cut into your time — and what it could cost.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
You sometimes make a tempting target for those who enjoy dragging larger-than-life types down to their level. Don't make it easy for them.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
If you let slip any kind of personal information today you will regret it tomorrow and maybe even a long time into the future.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
The more others try to tell you that you should change your ways the more certain you can be that you are doing exactly the right thing. They envy you.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
As mind planet Mercury moves back into your opposite sign, you must avoid sloppy thinking at all costs.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
You may be of the opinion that if you turn your back someone will stick a knife in it, but have you any genuine reason to be so suspicious?

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
You will be asked to take part in an activity that will take up a considerable amount of your time and energy, but do you have it to spare? Think hard.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
You may be inclined to do something drastic but what you do in haste will most likely be repented at your leisure, so think before you act.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
If you don't know all the facts about a particular situation you are strongly advised not to draw any conclusions, especially about other's motives.

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CITY: 7.3 L/100KM 39 MPG

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CITY: 10.6 L/100KM 27 MPG

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*MSRP for 2010 Forte 2.0L MT (FO540A)/2010 Soul 1.6L MT (SO550A) is $15,695/$15,495. Delivery and destination fees of $1,455/$1,650 excluded. ◆◆Monthly lease payment for 2010 Soul 1.6L MT (SO550A) is $199 for 48 months at 3.9% lease APR with a $785 down payment. Total lease obligation is $10,357 with the option to purchase at end of term for $6,815. Delivery and destination fees of $1,650 excluded. ◆Purchase price for 2009 Rio EX MT (RO5429)/2009 Rondo LX AT (RN7519) is $9,995/$17,495 and includes a cash rebate of $3,600/$2,500 based on an MSRP of $13,595/$19,995. Delivery and destination fees of $1,455/$1,650 excluded. License, registration, insurance, dealer administration fees and taxes are excluded. Other lease and finance options also available. Dealers are free to set individual prices. Prices subject to change without notice. Certain restrictions may apply. ◆Anniversary Savings and 0% purchase financing available on all 2009 models for 48 months on approved credit (O.A.C.). Not applicable on future value financing. ◆Kia's Integrity Advantage is underwritten by Echelon General Insurance Company and is valid on any new Kia model financed or leased through an authorized Kia dealer, for up to one year after purchase, and covers negative equity up to $7,500. Please refer to your Kia Integrity Advantage insurance policy document for full terms and conditions. Only available at participating dealers. Restrictions apply. Coverage options vary by province. See your participating Kia dealer for details. The Echelon General Insurance Company logo is a Registered Trademark of Echelon General Insurance Company. >Highway/city fuel consumption for 2010 Soul 1.6L MT is 6.3L/45 MPG/7.7 L/36 MPG; 2009 Rio EX MT is 5.9 L (48 MPG)/7.3 L (39 MPG); 2009 Rondo LX is 7.5 L (38 MPG)/10.6 L (27 MPG) per 100km. The actual fuel consumption of these vehicles may vary. These estimates are based on the Government of Canada's approved criteria and testing methods. Refer to the Government of Canada publication EnerGuide Fuel Consumption Guide. ‡Green Score for Kia Rio/Rondo based on manual/automatic transmission specification within their segment. Refer to GreenerCars.org for full details. ††NHTSA (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) test results. Visit www.safercar.gov for full details. †Visit autos.msn.com for full details. *Conditions apply to the $500 Grad Rebate program, see dealer for details. ✚Some conditions may apply to the $750 Kia Mobility program. See dealer for details. ✚Late availability on Bluetooth hands-free option. ▼Kia's "Worry-Free Comprehensive" warranty covers most vehicle components against defects occurring under normal use and maintenance conditions. ❖For every Kia vehicle purchased, a donation will be made to the Habitat for Humanity Canada Sponsorship Program. Visit www.habitat.org for details. Bluetooth technology and SIRIUS® Satellite Radio available on select 2009 and 2010 models. The Bluetooth® word mark and logo are registered trademarks and are owned by Bluetooth SIG, Inc. © 2009 SIRIUS Canada Inc. See dealer for details. Price, availability and specifications are subject to changes without notice. Some vehicles advertised may include optional accessories or after-sale equipment and may not be exactly as shown. Information in this advertisement is believed to be accurate at the time of print. Offer ends June 1, 2009 and is valid for residents of Ontario and Manitoba only. KIA is a trademark of Kia Motors Corporation.